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FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

## Gay students blast ROTC

*More than 100 campuses across the country join in a National Day of Action protesting the military's anti-gay and -lesbian ban*

By Chris Nealon

WASHINGTON—In an unprecedented display of solidarity around lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights, students from over 100 campuses around the U.S. confronted the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) April 10. The "National Day of Action," organized by the United States Student Association (USSA), targeted the ROTC policy of barring bisexual, lesbian, and gay students from military service. USSA received assistance in planning the action from the Military Freedom Project, a national coalition of lesbian and gay advocacy organizations.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated on their home campuses, holding rallies and conducting letter-writing campaigns challenging the ROTC policy, which is derived from the same Department of Defense directive that bars lesbians and gay men from service in the rest of the armed forces. Student groups staged mock-discrimination theater pieces, protested at recruitment tables and distributed posters depicting Uncle Sam as a supporter of lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights.

According to national organizers, anti-ROTC activity was particularly intense in New York, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. Student activists at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, for instance, marched into a meeting of university regents and demanded that the anti-lesbian/-gay policy be changed. Students from several campuses in the Washington area, meanwhile, held a press conference at the White House denouncing the policy. And groups from campuses around the U.S. flooded the White House with fax transmissions objecting to President George Bush's silence on the discrimination issue.

"It was fabulous," said Glenn Magpantay, an organizer of the day's actions, and a member of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual caucus of the USSA. "The actions went over really well." Magpantay told *GCN* that although the most recent tally of campuses participating had reached 119, the actual number was probably higher. "Rumor has it that other campuses were jumping on the bandwagon at the last minute," he said.

Although it is impossible to predict the

Continued on page 7

## AIDS commission releases hard-hitting prison study

*The government-appointed National Commission on AIDS finds gross inadequacies in HIV care and education in prisons*

By Elizabeth Yukins

WASHINGTON—The National Commission on AIDS released in late March an unprecedented study on the state of HIV care and education in the nation's prison facilities. The Commission, comprising high-ranking government officials and AIDS health care advocates, found gross inadequacies on the parts of prison administrators and public officials in addressing the prevalence of HIV among prisoners.

Prisoners' rights advocates and health care workers lauded the report's hard-hitting findings. They said they were pleased with the breadth of the Commission's recommendations for improving HIV care and education in prisons. They also expressed satisfaction with the way the Commission critically examined the failure of government officials and prison administrators to competently deal with HIV issues at federal, state and local levels.

"The prison HIV population's greatest impediment to getting anything done is that it has been isolated and hidden from public view," said Sue Sullivan, a staff attorney at Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, a prisoner advocacy group. "This report provides the first step of publicly identifying

the nature and magnitude of the [HIV] problem," Sullivan told *GCN*.

"The report is extremely important to people who are trying to pressure the government to develop reasonable policies to deal with HIV issues in the prisons," echoed Judy Greenspan of the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) Prisoner Project. "It is a mandate from the government's own commission saying that things are wrong and changes must be made," she told *GCN*, adding, "The report can now be our weapon, our rallying cry, to further" help prisoners cope with HIV.

### 'Sobering and troubling' findings

The Commission addresses two main issues in its report: the need to deal compassionately with the rapidly growing number of HIV-positive prisoners; and the important opportunities prisons offer for HIV prevention education. The report asserts that because the prison system consists of a large population of drug users and former drug users, "no other institution in this society has a higher concentration of people at a substantial risk of HIV infection."

In the report's introduction, the

Continued on page 7



## The 10th Anniversary of Gay Male S/M Activists

## Porn shops closed down in San Francisco

*Producers of sexually-explicit gay men's magazines worry that the use of the RICO Act to close five adult bookstores is an ominous 'tip of the iceberg'*

By Chris Nealon

SAN FRANCISCO—In a startling anti-pornography crackdown, federal officials swept through San Francisco last month, closing five adult book and video stores. Along with three stores catering to heterosexuals, the March 20 sweep shut down the gay-oriented Ben-Her and Locker Room bookstores.

The action was the latest anti-obscenity operation to make use of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), a 1970 statute originally designed to combat organized crime. RICO has been used more and more frequently to pursue porn dealers since the mid-1980s, when the Meese Commission's report on pornography was released. The Meese report called for more strict government regulation of obscene material.

RICO prosecutions are especially threatening, observers say, because they can be conducted anywhere pornographic material is distributed. For instance, even though a porn publishing or video operation might be based in a liberal location like New York or San Francisco, it will still be liable for prosecution in conservative places. Simply because right-wing communities in places like Utah and Nevada have access to pornographic material, they can decide to prosecute a company that does business on the other side of the country.

One RICO-style prosecution made headlines last year, when a New York-based porn movie channel called the Home Dish Satellite Corporation was indicted in Montgomery County, Ala. Although the case was never prosecuted, Home Dish went bankrupt within days after the indictment because its major carriers backed out of their contracts.

### Local response

In fact, San Francisco porn publishers said, it is difficult to assess the significance of the latest shutdowns because RICO prosecutions

seem so arbitrary. Joseph Beam, managing editor at *Drummer*, a leather-S/M-oriented magazine for men, said that the issues surrounding such closings are often murky. Porn distribution has sometimes been known to serve as a front for illegal activities, such as drug trafficking.

"We're having to look at it as at least possible that the reasons given [by federal officials] were true, that there was criminal activity beyond handling obscene material," Beam told *GCN*.

Beam also said he thought the impact of the closings of these particular bookstores will be small. Like most porn operations, he said, *Drummer* has a national subscribership, so the shutdown of a few stores will not make an immediate difference in the health of the magazine. Especially in San Francisco, he said, "People who want to buy your magazine will walk another block or go around the corner."

Richard Bulger, publisher of *Bear*, another explicit men's magazine, said he took a more ominous view of the March shutdowns. "Sure, two stores alone is rather insignificant," said Bulger, "but there's a lot more involved than just these two stores."

"This is the tip of the iceberg. There are 10,000 stores linked through a distribution network," he added. "There's the possibility that if what [federal officials] are doing is a test case, and if all those stores are impacted eventually, then we could lose half of our distribution."

### 'Limiting' visual material

Although most porn publishers say their distribution has not yet been hard-hit by RICO prosecutions, they add that RICO has made them wary about the content of their publications. According to *Drummer*'s Beam, RICO prosecutions have already had an effect on the content of many pornographic magazines. "The general atmosphere is making it hard," he said, adding, "We've had

Continued on page 8



## Activists hail Michigan decision on pregnant women

MUSKEGON, Mich.—Legal activists scored a victory for reproductive rights here recently, as the Michigan State Court of Appeals ruled that a woman should not face criminal charges related to her pregnancy. The court decided April 2 that Kimberly Hardy, a Muskegon, Mich. factory worker, should not stand trial for "criminally delivering" drugs to her son through her umbilical cord. The April 2 ruling overturned a lower court's 1989 decision said that Hardy should go to trial.

Prosecutors had argued that because Hardy used crack a few hours before her son's birth, she was essentially trafficking drugs to her son. Hardy's lawyers argued that drug trafficking laws do not apply to pregnant women. In addition, civil libertarians said, pregnant women generally have no access to drug treatment programs that might help them.

According to the *New York Times*, about 60 similar cases have been initiated in the U.S. since 1987. Charges against pregnant women using drugs in those cases have ranged from criminal delivery to assault with a deadly weapon.

In 1990, a Florida woman named Jennifer Johnson received the first pregnancy-related drug conviction in the U.S. Johnson was sentenced to one year in a drug treatment program, 14 years of probation, and enforced prenatal care should she become pregnant again. Johnson is appealing the decision.

"This is an attempt to punish and make examples of women who can't get help for their addiction problems," said Lynn Paltrow of the Reproductive Freedom Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "Prosecutors say they are protecting babies and are tough on drug abuse, when all they're doing is harassing women, punishing them for not getting treatment that is not available to them in the first place."

—Chris Nealon

## Gay groups boycott film

CINCINNATI—A lesbian- and gay-led boycott of the film *The Silence of the Lambs* continues to grow nationwide, with an activist group here declaring its support for the effort. Saying that a villain in the film upholds negative images of gay men and crossdressers, members of the Gay/Lesbian March activists (GLMA) urged moviegoers to "[spend] entertainment dollars elsewhere." The villain in the film is a cross-dressing serial killer who also murdered his male lover.

Activists called portrayals of transvestites as murderous a "Hollywood staple," and said that crossdressers are in fact "much more often victims of violence." GLMA members said they thought the film's producers depicted the villain as gay and a crossdresser "for no discernible reason except lurid cinematic sensationalism."

Boycott supporters made two disclaimers in advocating the campaign. First, they said, they do not object to negative portrayals of lesbians and gay men just because they are negative, but because there are so few positive portrayals to oppose the negative ones. "We realize that gay people can be villains," boycott supporters said.

Second, GLMA members said that they support the First Amendment right to free speech, and would oppose any censorship of the film. "We would condemn any official attempt to suppress this movie," GLMA members said, "just as we opposed Hamilton County's prosecution of a local art gallery for exhibiting photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe."

—Chris Nealon

## Cincinnati passes anti-discrimination law

CINCINNATI—By an overwhelming 8-1 majority, the Cincinnati City Council passed March 13 an anti-discrimination ordinance prohibiting discrimination in city employment, services and contracts on the basis of sexual orientation, HIV status, marital status, and Appalachian regional origin. Gay and lesbian activists working under an umbrella group, the Human Rights Task Force, coordinated the passage of the ordinance.

Ted Good, chair of the Task Force, told GCN that he thinks the City Council victory is indicative of a growing acceptance of gay activism in electoral politics. "It proved that the issue could be brought before the city council with a minimum of controversy,

even in an election year," said Good, adding that even City Council Member Nicholas Vehr, who cast the sole dissenting vote, had praised the Task Force's organization and professionalism.

The Task Force will now focus on implementing the recent ordinance, and working for appointments of gay men and lesbians to city boards and commissions. "I don't want it to be just a piece of paper," Good said, "I want it to live and breathe."

Good added that he anticipates the passage of the "Human Rights Ordinance II" next year. That legislation would extend the anti-discrimination protection to Cincinnati's private sector.

—Jacob Smith Yang

## German woman arrested for seeking abortion

BONN—Public protest against Germany's abortion laws escalated recently after border police arrested a woman for travelling abroad to have an abortion. Since her arrest, the woman, Katrin K., has appeared on national television to denounce what she considers abusive police tactics and discriminatory government regulations.

According to *Off Our Backs*, a women's newspaper, Katrin K. was stopped by German police when she and her husband were returning by car from the Netherlands. The police found a plastic bag containing a nightgown, towels, and sanitary napkins in the car, and arrested her on suspicion of travelling abroad for an abortion.

In order to confirm the charge, the police took Katrin K. to a hospital and forced her to submit to a vaginal examination. Although one doctor refused to perform the examination, another doctor complied with the police request. Based on information from the examination, police formally charged her with having had an abortion.

Katrin K.'s decision to go public with her story has prompted public outcry against both her treatment and the laws that allow such incidents to occur. Women living in what used to be West Germany can be sentenced to up to one year in jail for having an illegal abortion anywhere in the world. Legal abortions within the country are difficult to obtain.

Women living in the former East Germany can still obtain legal abortions, but the new Minister for Women and Youth, Angela Merkel, wants to make abortion illegal in the East, too.

Germany's Christian Democratic government has attempted to downplay Katrin K.'s story by stating that only 10 women in 10 years have been forced to have vaginal examinations in abortion arrests.

The Netherlands Justice Ministry, however, has raised concerns about the international legality of Germany's laws, and has asked the German government for an explanation. Members of the Netherlands' parliament point out that the German government's prosecution of women travelling abroad for an abortion violates the European Community guarantees of freedom of movement.

—Elizabeth Yukins

## ILGA conference criticized

GUADALAJARA—The mayor here has revealed that he is less than supportive about the International Lesbian and Gay Association's (ILGA) conference scheduled to take place in the city June 30-July 6.

"It is an event we repudiate completely," the mayor, Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra, told a newspaper, *Metropoli*. "We are never going to offer them even the smallest amount of support or backing, given that this meeting contravenes public morals," he said.

ILGA, however, says that it is has not been intimidated by these comments. According to *The Weekly News*, a Florida gay paper, conference organizers say that participants should not be inhibited or frightened by negative news articles. "*Metropoli* is an ultra-right wing newspaper," said Jorge Romero Mendoza of the Homosexual Pride Liberation Group. "The bottom line is that the authorities know that we have a constitutional right to stage the conference," he added.

Despite his antipathy to the event, the mayor similarly acknowledged that the local lesbian and gay organizations have a right to host the conference. "There will not be aggression against the [people attending]," he said, "But neither will we permit aggression [by them] against the [general] community."

—Elizabeth Yukins

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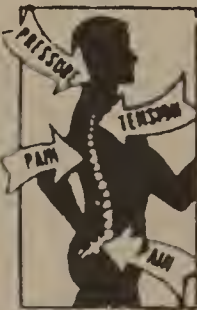
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(L to R) New York City Police Inspector Paul Anderson, NGLTF's Urvashi Vaid and Kevin Berrill

## FBI vows to uphold hate crimes act

*Two NGLTF officers attend a ceremony at FBI headquarters, where Justice Department officials discuss implementation of the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act*

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON—Gay activists witnessed another history-making event April 4, when two members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) attended an official function at the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The function marked the implementation of the Hate Crimes Act, which was passed by Congress and signed by President George Bush last year.

Representatives of civil rights groups who were instrumental in the passage of the legislation joined law enforcement officials at a ceremony to highlight efforts by the U.S. Department of Justice to stem escalation of bias-related crimes. The Justice Department credited NGLTF with helping shape the implementation of the act, and announced that efforts to collect "vital" statistics documenting hate-motivated attacks are "on track."

"The FBI," promised Bureau Director William Sessions, "is committed to the

successful implementation of this critical program."

NGLTF's Urvashi Vaid and Kevin Berrill said that while they were thrilled by the invitation and kudos, they were not deluded by the ceremony's glamour and prestige. More hard work, they cautioned, is needed to push Congress to allocate post-war funding for training, data collection and analysis.

Vaid, executive director of NGLTF, said that "40 years ago, even 10 years ago, [it] would have been unimaginable" that "Kevin and I, as openly gay people [could be] sitting at a press conference [held] by the director of the FBI." She added, "I think it's a sign of how important this community has become, and how important our issues are today." Vaid also noted the irony of being invited to the huge complex, considering that J. Edgar Hoover's FBI kept files on suspected homosexuals for political advantage.

Berrill, director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project, said the invitation to the ceremony

Continued on page 8

## Police accountability called into question

*A study by the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance's Anti-Violence Project suggests that the vast majority of civilian complaints against police are found to have no merit*

By Ed Boyce

Boston—A local gay rights group released a study April 3 that criticizes the way the Boston Police Department's Internal Affairs Division (IAD) responds to civilian complaints against police. The study, which was conducted by the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance's Anti-Violence Project, was based on information obtained through a Freedom of Information request filed by the organization in early March.

The Alliance's study finds that over the last 10 years, an average of 8.6 percent of civilian complaints against the police were "sustained" or found to have merit. In contrast, 52 percent of complaints against officers filed by other officers were sustained.

"The results of this study are a shocking indictment of the Internal Affairs process," said Michael Cronin, co-chair of the Anti-Violence Project and principal author of the study. "It is absolutely clear that Internal Affairs is not an effective remedy for the average citizen with a complaint against the police," he said, adding, "In fact, the data suggest that the police are accountable to no one."

Frank McGee, attorney for the Patrolmen's Association, tried to disrupt the press conference, which was held in front of the Boston police's headquarters. He loudly disputed the Alliance's study, but did not cite

any specific statistics in support of his objections.

Prompted by a recent dramatic increase in the number of reported beatings of and harassment against gay men and lesbians by police officers, members of the Anti-Violence Project initiated discussions with the Boston police some months ago. Police officials responded to activists' concerns by saying that all complaints should be referred to the IAD, which they touted as an effective means of redress.

Gay community activists, however, charge that the IAD process is intimidating, long and unresponsive. Several public meetings about police violence and the IAD have been held by the Alliance and Queer Nation/Boston over the last few months. These community meetings yielded many stories of abuse by police and unsuccessful attempts to obtain redress through the IAD.

"When it comes to a complaint against the police, it's our word against theirs," said Don Gorton, chair of the Alliance. He told *GCN* that, "Any process that denies over 90 percent of complaints filed almost has to be rigged. It strains credulity to imagine that so many citizen accounts of police misconduct are made up or are otherwise untrue."

"The conclusion I draw, as a litigation attorney, is that IAD sides with the officer's story against the complainant's, unless there is unusually powerful evidence to support,"

Continued on page 8

## Needle exchange cases could alter laws

*Upcoming bills and court decisions on needle possession prosecutions could help stem the tide of HIV transmission among drug users*

By Elizabeth Yukins

BOSTON—As the number of drug users infected with HIV continues to rise, many AIDS activists are increasing their efforts to legitimate and legalize needle exchange as a means of combatting HIV transmission. Throughout the month of April, clean needle advocates in Massachusetts and New York state will be pressuring the courts and legislatures to review laws prohibiting needle possession and exchange.

In both states, needle exchange activists are on trial for illegally possessing and distributing hypodermic needles. Similar defense arguments will be used in each of the cases to justify the necessity of needle exchange in order to save lives. Elected representatives in both states have also introduced bills that could legalize over-the-counter sales of needles and decriminalize the possession of needles.

### Clean needle legislation

Activists and elected officials who are trying to change the laws stress that clean needles are an immediate way to stop the high rate of HIV transmission among intravenous drug users. With national statistics showing that as of Jan. 1, over 32,000 Centers for Disease Control-defined AIDS cases in the U.S. were related to I.V. drug use, clean needle advocates say that federal and state authorities must recognize the importance of clean needles as preventive tools.

In Massachusetts, Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston) has introduced a bill into the Committee on Health Care that would allow nonprescription sales and possession of needles. Massachusetts is one of 11 states in the U.S. that currently requires a prescription to purchase a needle.

"The bill is an attempt to add to the relatively small number of options available to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus," said Rushing. "If we can get more I.V. drug users to use sterile needles and then discard them, we will have added to an otherwise meager arsenal of prevention weapons," he told *GCN*.

Rushing said that despite his convictions about the bill's importance, he is not optimistic that it will be passed. He said that previous efforts to introduce the bill in legislative sessions have proven unsuccessful, and that he has not seen "much change of attitude [towards needle exchange] in the past two years."

Rushing also said, however, that he will continue lobbying hard for the bill's acceptance. He said that its supporters include the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, the AIDS Action Committee, the National AIDS Brigade and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

"We are willing to discuss revisions to the bill, and we will try to see if we can come up with some rational responses to opponents' concerns," said Rushing. "But we can't revise it if the argument is 'Just don't do it,'" he said, adding, "That's what I have to fight against."

Rushing's bill represents a particularly important vehicle for change for local AIDS activists involved with clean needle distribution. If passed, the legislation would enable them to give out clean needles to drug users without having to worry about arrest.

Will Murphy, of the National AIDS Brigade, a needle exchange organization, said he strongly supports Rushing's legislative efforts. "If the law is changed and we don't have to worry about legal penalties, it would make everyone's jobs much easier," Murphy told *GCN*. "The city would have less to monitor, we wouldn't have to move around so much [when distributing needles], and people would have an easier time finding us [for exchanges]," he said.

Murphy added, however, that, "We're not putting all our eggs in that basket." He said that because the legislative process can be slow and difficult, he will not wait for the government to condone the way he helps drug users.

Murphy also said that the bill would not lessen the need for the kind of street-level outreach and education programs the National AIDS Brigade conducts. "You can't just give someone access to a sterile needle and say that this is the answer," he said.

"There needs to be personal contact made and support given so that the idea of treatment is offered as an option."

### 'In the interest of justice'

Needle exchange activists have begun to view the court as a means to influence changes in the law. People arrested for needle distribution have used their judicial hearings as forums for voicing their concerns about HIV and for demanding the legalization of clean needle exchange programs.

Three needle distribution cases are currently pending in Massachusetts and New York, and the defendants in each hope that a not-guilty ruling will send a powerful message to the state legislatures.

Jim Luger, a member of the National AIDS Brigade who has been charged with needle distribution in Boston, is petitioning that his case be dismissed "in the interest of justice." Luger argues that there is glaring evidence that lives can be saved through needle exchange, and that, therefore, "It is more important to do needle distribution than it is to adhere to the law."

Luger told *GCN* that he hopes that a dismissal or a not-guilty ruling in his case will send a message to police and government officials. "If the court rules in favor of my right to possess needles, there should be no distinction between my rights and the rights of drug users," said Luger.

"This legal challenge could render the law unenforceable in certain areas, and police would know that they're wasting their time in enforcing it," he said, adding, "This will definitely affect the validity of the law in politicians' eyes."

Defendants in two other needle distribution trials are using a "necessity defense" to plead their cases. In New York, 10 needle-exchange activists are arguing that their actions are justified by the severe health crisis they are trying to combat.

"Our tactic is to state that needle exchange has to be done because there is a medical emergency in the drug community," said Dan Williams, a defendant in the case and a member of ACT UP/New York's Needle Exchange program. "We want the court to affirm that this is a severe problem, and that our actions fall within the bounds of necessity," he told *GCN*.

Williams also said that legislation similar to Rushing's was recently introduced into the New York legislature, and is receiving substantial support from state assembly members.

Meanwhile, Karen Nevins, a member of the National AIDS Brigade, is on trial for needle distribution in Worcester, Mass. Nevins told *GCN* that she is arguing a "necessity defense" similar to one used successfully in an earlier trial by another AIDS Brigade member, Jon Parker. In the Parker ruling, the judge acquitted the defendant and stated, "I take judicial notice that stopping AIDS is an important public health policy of this Commonwealth.... The harm Parker sought to avoid was far greater than the harm caused by his statutory violation."

Nevins said that she hopes the judge in her case will follow a similar train of thought, not only so that she will be found innocent, but also to send a message to the legislature. "[Court cases] are one of the best ways to focus the public's attention on the needle issue," she said.

"I'm glad my case came up," Nevins concluded. "I don't want to be a martyr for the cause, but if the ruling goes well, a second not-guilty verdict from the court will be a very effective mechanism for changing the state's laws," she said. □

### NOTE

**GCN will not publish a paper the week of April 27-May 3  
Volume 18 Issue 40 will come out May 4.**

Deadlines for Classified and Display Ads for Issue 40 will be Monday, April 29 at noon.



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Judge by values

Dear *GCN*:

I am a New York-based out lesbian stand-up comic, and I was scheduled to perform at the club Indigo for one performance on Saturday, March 23, 1991. I was greatly looking forward to the performance, it had been planned for over eight months, and I had already spent a great deal of money on advertising when I decided to cancel my performance four days before the event. I am writing this letter to explain my decision not to perform at Indigo as scheduled.

On the Monday before the Saturday night I was to perform, an interviewer told me that two groups had decided to boycott the club to protest what they considered to be racist incidents and that a picket line was demonstrating outside the club. I spoke to numerous individuals including one of the organizers of the boycott and a representative from the club. I decided that I was in no position to determine the merits of either side's position, but that I simply would not cross a picket line.

Like many others, I hope that this will be an opportunity to deal constructively with long-standing critical issues in our community. I also hope that there is a positive outcome to this situation, that it gets resolved quickly, and that the entire Boston-area women's community will feel served by Indigo as it is one of the few remaining women's spaces in the area.

I look forward to a re-scheduled performance at Indigo in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,  
Sara Cytron  
New York, N.Y.

Quietly drift elsewhere

Dear *GCN*:

I am writing in reference to the article "Controversy Engulfs Lesbian Bar" which appeared in the 3/25-4/1 issue. The protest and subsequent boycott aimed at Indigo is indeed controversial and confusing. It seems difficult to sort our exactly where the facts lie, and yet any cry of discrimination or racism, especially within the wimmin's community, must be taken as deadly serious. I was at Indigo during one of the protest nights—and I crossed the picket line in a fit of pique because the wimmin walking it presumed that I and my friend, two wimmin with long hair and make-up, were straight and did not approach us with their flyers. When I later received a copy of the group's material from a friend, I was extremely concerned about the incidents which they highlighted.

There is, however, an issue which I feel has been passed over in the press coverage which I have seen regarding the conflict. In the literature which was being handed out at Indigo that night, the bouncer involved in the 11/24/90 incident in which Jacquelyn Black and her friend state they were shoved was identified as male. The question I pose is this: Why does the management/ownership of Indigo feel it necessary to hire a male bouncer? Many of Boston's gay male bar feel comfortable excluding wimmin as mere *patrons* (we all remember the controversy surrounding the opening of Maximum Security), but the wimmin's community is expected to feel comfortable with a male *bouncer*.

I am not saying that Indigo should not hire men, but I do question the underlying assumptions attached to the hiring of a male to fill the position most likely to involve physical confrontation with patrons. White men have enough power in the outside world, must they be given still more in a space advertised as "the club for women?" Male bartenders, barbacks and DJs are one thing, but as a childhood sexual abuse survivor and an adult rape survivor I would be deeply upset if at some time a male bouncer felt it necessary to physically control me. Should not those who run Indigo, "the club for women," respond to issues which run deep in our community? Or do they suffer from the internalized sexist assumption that bouncing has to be a "man's job?"

I have wanted to raise this in the past, as have several wimmin friends of mine, and we have all shied away from adding to the divisiveness which plagues the gay community already. Many have quietly drifted to Campus or Gertrude's—where no one is allowed to use a fake I.D. or become abusive, but where wimmin are giving the dignity of policing other wimmin. So to Indigo staff, management and ownership I say: take the hint. On a recent Thursday night, when the club is usually wall to wall by 11:00 pm, there was not only open space but open TABLES. Your business is

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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4 • APRIL 16-22, 1991 • GAY COMMUNITY NEWS



# To move forward, we need to move together

By Lofofora Contreras

Who does M.P. Schildmeyer think she's fooling by her joke that transsexuals grew up with male privileges? (*GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 16, October 27-November 2, 1990, "Lesbian Conference planners meet in Atlanta")

So, all the lesbian women who are organizing and meeting from all over the country, meeting to work out strategies for what is basically self-defense and self-preservation actions against a sexist, racist, bigoted and hypocritical society that has and continues to oppress and suppress them *because* they're women and lesbians can spit the same venom at transsexuals that society has spat upon them? Where does M.P. Schildmeyer get her data for her conclusions that transsexuals grew up with male privileges? And since when does a lesbian woman who has a case against male sexism start telling sexist jokes about transsexuals? This is the National Lesbian Conference?

I am assuming that M.P. Schildmeyer is a lesbian. The article, by *GCN* news reporter Laura Briggs, does not identify M.P. Schildmeyer other than being the "on-site logistics coordinator for the event," meaning the National Lesbian Conference planned for April 1991 in Atlanta.

M.P. Schildmeyer's statement that transsexuals grew up with male privileges lacks a foundation and thereby reflects her prejudice. Her reasoning is also warped. I can assure you that many transsexuals grew up being beaten, whipped and rejected by their parents because they were transsexual, because they wouldn't be men and thereby enjoy the fruits of male privilege. Some ended up on the streets, making an infamous living there. Why are many transsexuals

prostitutes? They were thrown out of their homes, or forced to leave them, because of their gender dysphoria.

By her own reasoning, society would say that since M.P. Schildmeyer is a woman, she should be married to a man and raise children and be a good housewife, mother and obedient servant of her husband. It would say that she should be heterosexual and not a lesbian. That way of thinking also says that a male-to-female transsexual is a man, and should act like one. Both ways of thinking are erroneous.

Are we supposed to assume now, by M.P. Schildmeyer's reasoning, that because a lesbian is white, she has grown up with white privileges? Should all minority lesbians, so-called lesbians of "color," feel uncomfortable with the idea of working with white lesbians, or with M.P. Schildmeyer, because of issues of growing up with white privileges? *Has* growing up caused them to be racially arrogant? That may be so according to Ayofemi Folayan who, in the same article, said she didn't feel women of color were being accepted by the Conference leadership and who had heard racist statements at meetings. Perhaps M.P. Schildmeyer would like to clarify that issue for the community and also her prejudicial joke about transsexuals.

The article did not say why or how the extended debate about transsexuals got started. Were transsexuals requesting to be at the conference? I don't think that a transsexual would be interested in involving herself in a lesbian conference. I doubt that any transsexual would ask a national lesbian conference to allow her to attend. Under what agenda would that be? Should one ever

come to make such a request, it would be a rare occasion and she would be knocking on the wrong door, for we are neither male proper nor female proper but of a third sex. Technically we are "transsexuals." Personally we regard ourselves as women. It would be inappropriate for a transsexual to integrate herself into a lesbian conference. Besides, unlike lesbians the transsexual is attracted to men. Perhaps this is what really causes M.P. Schildmeyer to strike out at us as she has. She has the same very scrousy misconception about transsexuals that is prevalent throughout sexist society and dominates it.

There are various harmful chasms in existence among the divergent sexual orientations that comprise the overall gay community; there is no need for any more. Uneducated jokes and opinions such as those by M.P. Schildmeyer only serve to create more ignorance and hold back our unity and progress and our ultimate freedom. We are not so uneducated as to begin exchanging venom with the Lesbian Conference over an uneducated slight. Let us instead build on what we have in common. *That* will bring us together, and move us forward.

*Lofofora "Chi Chi" Contreras is a 37-year-old pre-op transsexual serving a life sentence in California and currently housed at Folsom Prison. She is the Director in California of Transsexuals In Prison and Executive Director of the TIP Western Division. She is the editor of the California-TIP quarterly newsletter Pan Transsexual Awareness, which is distributed free to transsexual prisoners and others.*

## Your one true church

Dear *GCN*:

I was going to write a response to your humorous April Fools attack on me, which opposed my request for media credentials to cover the National Lesbian Conference.

But then I realized that there's no way to reason with the ideologically pure, no way to dialogue with the politically perfect, no hope of prying open the minds of those who believe their religion is The One True Church.

I will only tell you this: My protest at being barred from covering the NLC for my 36 affiliated gay/lesbian newspapers has been strongly and publicly endorsed by Lisa Keen, the lesbian editor of *The Washington Blade*; Aslan Brooks, the lesbian editor of *Frontiers* in Los Angeles; and Urvashi Vaid, the lesbian Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Your One True Church has a lot of high-ranking apostates. I hope that you too will someday learn that dogma is dehumanizing.

Wrecks Everything  
a/k/a Rex Wockner  
Chicago, Ill.

## Hyatt majority

[*This is a copy of a letter sent to Phill Wilson of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference on Feb. 15.*]

Dear Phill:

As a participant in two previous Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (BGLLF) Conferences and numerous other national and international people of color gay and lesbian conferences, I am angry that BGLLF has decided to hold its February conference at the Hyatt Hotel in Los Angeles and not honor the boycott of that hotel. It is imperative that the boycott be supported and I, along with other representatives of the Freedom Socialist Party, will not be attending the conference for this reason. Representatives from Radical Women will not be attending the conference either.

Hyatt Hotel workers, the majority of whom are Blacks and Latinos—including many lesbians and gays—have called the boycott through their union to protest the fact that they are the lowest paid hotel workers in Los Angeles! They have been forced to work without a contract since 1988 because Hyatt has refused to agree to the same union contract which all other hotels in the city have signed.

Although the boycott began after BGLLF signed a contract, that in no way excuses you from the responsibility of supporting it. Since late December, I have earnestly tried

to convince you to abide by the employees' and Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 11's recommendations and have suggested ways to work out the possible logistical and financial problems this would create for BGLLF. The fact that BGLLF would be inconvenienced by a change of conference sites is not what should have determined your decision.

Hotel employees have publicized examples of blatant race and sex discrimination on the job. They have had to face economic hardship because of their low pay. And they have called the boycott to try to better their working conditions. Your lack of compliance effectively works against their efforts to improve their lives. It's an appalling decision for a group like BGLLF which is oriented to Black lesbians and gays who face constant discrimination in all aspects of their daily lives. The issues could not be more concretely related.

Had this been a lesbian/gay- initiated boycott, I'm sure you would have supported it. This boycott is no different.

The union has tried to work with BGLLF and even found a suitable alternative site for you at the Los Angeles Hilton. According to the union, the Hilton would have been willing to negotiate lower prices to offset some of the financial loss you might have suffered by moving the conference from the Hyatt.

Since the union and others including myself brought the boycott to your attention, BGLLF has offered some halfway measures to support the hotel workers. But these are not enough. The Leadership Forum could have mounted a community protest against the Hyatt with support from the Black and Latino communities, the unions and other organizations. This would have helped publicize the plight of the hotel workers. With such pressure you might well have caused the Hyatt to release you from your contract. Had you decided to support the boycott, you would have set an example that could have helped pressure the Hyatt into resolving the labor dispute.

Political leadership in these times of war—war in the Persian Gulf and war on our communities—demands taking a defiant stand against all injustice and corporate greed. Words alone don't do the trick. In this system, money talks and BGLLF could have played an important role in bringing the Hyatt's anti-labor policies to an end. The limited steps you have taken reflect a desire to look good on labor issues, but you have failed to put your actions where your mouth is.

I sincerely hope that the Leadership Forum will learn from this mistake and take

every means available in the future to schedule your conferences at hotels that are free of labor disputes.

In struggle,  
Tom Boot  
San Francisco, Calif.

## Change medical care

Dear *GCN*:

Greetings. I am an inmate currently being housed at the California Institution for Men's East Facility. To be more specific, Del-Norte, SPU. It is where the inmates who have tested positive for the HIV virus are housed.

The reason for this letter is not to cry or complain about having the virus but to let some people exactly how the CIM-E treats HIV infected inmates.

For the most part the medical care here is the pits. Del-Norte is supposed to be an AIDS/HIV unit, yet the staff (MTAs, Doctors and others) treat it like nothing of the kind. It's basically like this around here; if an inmate needs treatment, the inmate must almost be on his deathbed before he gets proper medical care. Too often I have seen it happen, a man gets to the point where they finally do something and by that time it is too late. The inmate doesn't come back.

There is *no* AIDS/HIV specialist here at Del-Norte. The people who work as the MDs are most often people that know very little about the disease itself. I have looked into some of the reasons why Del-Norte still lacks the proper medical staff to deal with situations in here. The result of that came out to be, they don't want to spend the money on things like that.

In my opinion, there should be a specialist to deal with us instead of just a person who thinks he knows something. There should also be a dietician to plan meals and help out in that area.

The security staff here at Del-Norte do their job. There is nothing that can be said bad about them. They follow the general orders handed to them. For the most part Del-Norte is just like any other place in the system.

If I could change its medical care it would make a big difference to a lot of people. I guess what I want to do is ask if anybody has a suggestion on helping us get proper medical care, please contact me. Thank you.

Jacque Ferguson  
E17686-302  
P.O. Box 500  
East Chino, CA 91708

supported by a specific community—respond openly and honestly to the charges of racism brought by A.F. R.O.S. and A.M.A.L.M., and to the fact that a significant number of your patrons resent and, yes, fear your male bouncers, or watch the rest of us just quietly drift elsewhere.

Sincerely,  
Judith Feinberg  
Waltham, Mass.

## Love isn't enough

Dear *GCN*:

Shortly before the holidays this past year, Queer Nation/Boston sent out a mailing to all churches and synagogues in the Boston area. This letter placed the blame for anti-gay discrimination and violence at the feet of our religious leaders. It pointed out that preaching about love was not enough, because of all the other messages from churches which condemn gays and lesbians. Because of these homophobic teachings, a message like, "Love all men and women," gets interpreted as "Love all men and women, unless they are fags and dykes." Queer Nation asked church leaders for a commitment to "Undo the Hatred" by preaching specifically against anti-gay violence, and by including gays and lesbians in their sermons. We called on them to send us copies of their sermons, and enter into a dialogue with us by sending us their ideas on other ways that churches may work to end anti-queer hatred.

The religious leadership in Boston has met our worst fears. The homophobia that was instilled in them years ago is still very much alive. We received a grand total of four responses from over 400 letters sent, and even one of those was a negative response. Dr. Milton P. Ryder, of the First Baptist Church of Boston wrote that he could not share our message with his congregation, not because he disagreed, but simply because of the name of our organization.

Let me first say that I have not met a non-gay, non-closeted person yet who was bothered about the name of our group.

More importantly, it seems that our religious leaders will stop at nothing to find excuses for their lack of action on what might be an unpopular issue. With only a few exceptions, the BETTER clergymen and women may support gays in lesbians and PRIVATE as "their little secret" but never touch the subject with their congregations. While a knowing wink from across the room may help some to feel less isolated, it surely does little to bolster their self-esteem, and NOTHING at all to affect the attitude of the general population.

We all recently saw how fast and how strongly churches reacted to end the fighting in the Persian Gulf, but yet they still contribute to the war against queer people in our own backyard.

We as queers need to make the same demands on the clergy as we have come to make on our politicians: to take a positive on gay issues, and make it public. Like politicians, churches will take a SAFE, non-committal stand that does nothing to help the situation, and implicitly condones it. When churches refuse to take a positive, public stand against anti-queer hatred and violence, aren't they really saying that we don't matter? Is gay bashing acceptable or even condoned? Are they just going to continue doing nothing in the face of mounting violence? Or do they have any opinions at all on the issue?

And if you're a gay male, will a gay basher not attack you if you're dressed as a priest? Maybe we should all dress as priests! Oh, yeah, that's already being done. This brings us to an even more disgusting group, gay priests. How long have we heard the tired line about "trying to change things from within?" Bullshit. Things have only gotten worse, and it's largely because of these spineless wimps who will never speak out in our (and their own) behalf.

It's time to say NO to these hypocrites, and for groups like Dignity to actually GET SOME DIGNITY and tell the church that it will have to kiss THEIR asses for a change if it wants support. We won't shop in a store if it discriminates against us, so why make an exception with our religions?

Things need to change and if OUTING all the gay priests and ministers will help, then that's what we should do. There's no reason to support anyone's hypocrisy while he or she continues to alienate us from the rest of the world. We should all feel ashamed of these institutions and we of all people should take away our support for as long as they discriminate against us or any other minority.

Rick Cresswell  
Jamie Pierce  
Dorchester, Mass.



## OBITUARIES



### James L. Callahan

WILKES-BARRE, Penn. — James L. Callahan, formerly of Boston, died at his home here on Feb. 2. He was 40.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, James was the son of Mrs. Ruth June Burns Callahan and the late James J. Callahan. He was a graduate of St. Mary's High School and King's College, from which he received his B.A. in social studies. He also attended Boston State College from 1976-1978, and the IBM Learning Center from 1982-1983.

Jimmy taught at Bishop Hobart High School from 1972-1975. He also worked as an accountant for L. C. Anderson, Inc. of Boston. He last worked as a telecommunications manager for Trans National Group Services of Boston.

Jimmy was a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre. He was also an accomplished pianist, and a member of the Boston Computer Society.

In addition to his mother, Jimmy is survived by his sister, Mrs. Mary Konsavage, and his nephew, Robert.

Contributions in Jimmy's memory can be made to the AIDS Action Committee, 131 Clarendon St., Boston, MA 02116.

### Linda Rosenfeld

BERKELEY, Calif. — Following a two-year struggle with cervical cancer, Linda Rosenfeld, surrounded by loved ones, died Feb. 14. She was 33.

Linda was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She later moved to the San Francisco Bay area, where she made her home for the past 10 years.

Linda, who was a chiropractor, studied various healing modalities throughout her life. In 1988, Linda organized the first lesbian and gay chiropractor's contingent to march in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Parade.

Prior to her illness, Linda was a volunteer medic at the Berkeley Free Clinic and the Berkeley Women's Health Collective. Following her diagnosis, she volunteered at the Women's Cancer Resource Center in Berkeley.

Linda was also active in building a national Jewish lesbian-feminist community; she was one of the organizers of Dyke Shabbos, and she participated in the creation of Jewish feminist liturgy.

Linda loved the outdoors. She spent much of her time hiking, jogging and bicycle riding, as well as travelling around the country in her 20-year-old car.

Linda will be remembered as a warm and caring friend who loved a good joke, a healthy meal, a short nap, the morning sun, and a long (uphill) walk in the mountains.

Linda is survived by her parents, Masha and Norman, sister, Sandy, brother-in-law, Charles, and nephew, Yosi. She is also survived by her close friends Leland, Arlene, Leah, Adeline, Andrea, Ann F., Ann V., Ann H. and Steve, Beth and Lisa, Dodie, Gil and Stacy, Tree, and many, many others, near and far, who cared for her in life and beyond.

Donations in Linda's memory can be made to either the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705, or the Berkeley Public Library (c/o Leland Tremain), 2090 Acton St., Berkeley, CA 94702.

### Victor deNatale

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Victor Oocie deNatale died March 25 after a lengthy AIDS-related illness. He was 29.

A native of Arkansas, Victor later lived in

New York State and attended schools there. He received both a Bachelor's of Science degree in art and design and a Master's in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As an architect on the staff of Linea 5 in Cambridge, Mass., Victor worked on the design of commercial and private housing throughout New England. He was also a member of the American Institute of Architects.

Victor leaves his lover, Carlos Reverendo, and three sisters, Birdene DeNatale, Debra Czyzyk, and Janet Vice. A memorial service will be held on April 27 at 1:00 p.m. in Kresge Chapel at MIT.



R. SCOTT REEDY

### Richard A. Fleming

BOSTON — Richard A. Fleming died from an AIDS-related illness in early February at his home on St. Botolph Street in Boston. He was 47.

Richard, who was originally from Jamaica Plain, Mass., worked for the City of Boston Public Works Department for the past 25 years and served as vice-president of his union for several years.

Richard was renowned for his endless energy, practical jokes, storytelling and irreverent sense of humor. He always said, "Nobody had more fun than I did." How true that was!

Because of the time that Richard spent with friends and acquaintances who were affected by AIDS, they will be able to use his life as an example of how to cope with the rough times ahead. Perhaps the greatest testimonials to Richard are the smiles and grins that instantly appear when we remember him.

—Ken Paruti

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## ROTC

Continued from page 1

long-term impact of the action, said Magpantay, students felt an undeniable sense of triumph in the sheer volume of their protest. "The President has issued no statement [about the action], but we're fairly sure he heard something of what we were doing yesterday," Magpantay said.

### 'No one could answer'

Beverly Jenkins, chair of the USSA lesbian, gay, and bisexual caucus and a student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, said that the group with whom she protested was particularly forceful. After students invaded the university regents' meeting, Jenkins told *GCN*, they objected to a university president's report that condemned the discriminatory policy but refused to remove ROTC from campus. Said Jenkins, "One student asked them, 'What would happen if there were no ROTC on campus?' And no one could answer him."

In response, Jenkins said, students have resolved to do the research necessary to find out the legal and financial consequences of removing ROTC from campus. "We're going to do the research for them," she said.

Karen Friedman, a lobbyist for the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) who assisted student groups in the Washington area, said she also thought that the demonstrations were forceful and effective. "We very much think that the actions were really important," she said.

She added however, that pressing for a change in the anti-lesbian and -gay policy is likely to take a long time. "This is a first step," said Friedman.

### 'Lack of outcry'

The day of action took place in the midst of national attention to the latest case of ROTC dismissal of a gay cadet. Rob Schwitz, an Air Force ROTC cadet at Washington University in St. Louis, was notified March 6 that he will be dismissed from ROTC because he is gay. Schwitz came out to his Air Force advisors just two days before.

"It was something I thought about a lot," said Schwitz. "I had no choice." Schwitz told *GCN* that he waited a while to come out in order to make sure he was prepared for the consequences. "I wanted to do it right, to make sure I had an attorney," he said.

Schwitz added that a task force at Washington University has condemned ROTC discrimination, but has made no move to push the Department of Defense to change its policy. Students at Washington, Schwitz said, "are supportive, but very apathetic. It was certainly to our detriment that when the task force report came out, it cited a 'lack of outcry' on campus."

Schwitz also said, however, that he thought a "domino effect" might be possible as more cadets decide to come out of the closet. For instance, said Schwitz, he received support in his decision to come out from James Holobaugh, another Washington University cadet who was dismissed because he is gay. "That made it easier for me," he said.

Although students at Washington did not participate in the day of action, Schwitz said, he was pleased to hear that activities, especially letter-writing campaigns, were taking place around the U.S. "It's critical to write to Congress and to the President," he said.

In the meantime, said Schwitz, "I wouldn't be surprised if the policy changed in another five years. But I'm not holding my breath."

—filed from Boston

## Prisons

Continued from page 1

Commission states that its findings are "sobering and troubling." It cites facts and statistics to prove how HIV has become a severe health problem in prisons, and it makes grave predictions about future prison conditions if officials don't implement progressive and humane HIV care policies.

Most importantly, the Commission affirms the fundamental right of all prisoners to receive proper medical care, and explicitly reveals how prisoners' rights are repeatedly violated by HIV discrimination, poor education and counseling programs, and inadequate medical attention in prisons.

Key proposals in the report include recommendations for giving HIV-positive prisoners greater access to drug treatments and clinical trials, and focusing more attention on the medical needs of imprisoned women and adolescents. In addition, the report advises that extensive HIV education programs be developed for prisoners, prison

staff workers, administration officials, health care workers and court officers.

According to prisoners' rights activists, the report is crucial because it candidly addresses and seeks to dispel myths about HIV and prisoners. For instance, the report discredits the notion that prisoners should not be allowed to have condoms for security reasons. Contradicting the long-standing idea that condoms will be used to smuggle drugs into the prison, the report encourages condom distribution, saying that "two years of experience with condom availability in the New York City system have resulted in no adverse security incidents."

Another myth the report rejects is that HIV segregation can be used as a viable means to handle HIV-positive prisoners. "The Commission finds automatic segregation to be wholly without public health merit, often giving rise to dangerous circumstances for the correctional community as a whole," the report reads.

The Commission says that by sequestering prisoners who have tested positive for HIV, prison officials both create a false sense of security among other prisoners, and effectively label the HIV-positive prisoners as targets for "assaults, discrimination, and disparate treatment." Currently, 16 state prisons segregate all prisoners with full-blown AIDS, five segregate those with AIDS Related Complex, and four segregate all those who are seropositive.

The ACLU's Greenspan said the report is unique because it takes into account testimony by prisoners with HIV. "One of the reasons I really like this report and think it should have wide-spread influence is that it really does speak with the voices of the prisoners," she said. Prisoners' experiences with HIV in prison are quoted throughout the report, and their testimonies are often used to illustrate the desperate need of health care reform within prison facilities.

### 'Public health responsibilities'

The report approaches HIV in prisons from a new vantage point by showing how prisoner education about drug use and HIV prevention affects those inside and outside the prison system. With the high rate of turnover in the prison population, the report reads, "Interventions among prisoners will save lives and will have a significant impact upon the course of the epidemic in communities to which prisoners will return."

"What's different about this report is that it frames [HIV issues] in terms of public health responsibilities," said Larry Kessler, executive director of the AIDS Action Committee in Boston and a member of the Commission. "It makes it clear that you can't just say, 'Oh that's a problem for the corrections people, let them figure it out,'" he told *GCN*. "The report shows that there has to be dialogue and partnerships developed here to fully combat this problem."

Kessler said that the report will hopefully help develop uniform standards for HIV care and education in prisons, and will help eradicate inequalities and irregularities that occur throughout the prison system.

Greenspan similarly said that she hopes that the report will help establish a uniform HIV policy for prisons throughout the country. She cautioned, however, that such a policy will not come about immediately or easily just because a government study has been released. "No one in prison administration is going to jump into line in response to this report. But it will be our political agitation tool," she said.

Greenspan added that she believes the report will become a means by which prisoners and prisoners' rights advocates can show the government how it should be handling issues about HIV in prisons. "The report validated everything we've been saying for the past five years, and now we can use [the government's] own words to really make our point," she said.

"I envision us enlarging the pages of the report and making them into placards we could carry at demonstrations," Greenspan concluded. "We would carry these signs and shout, 'Here's your report, now live up to your promises!'"

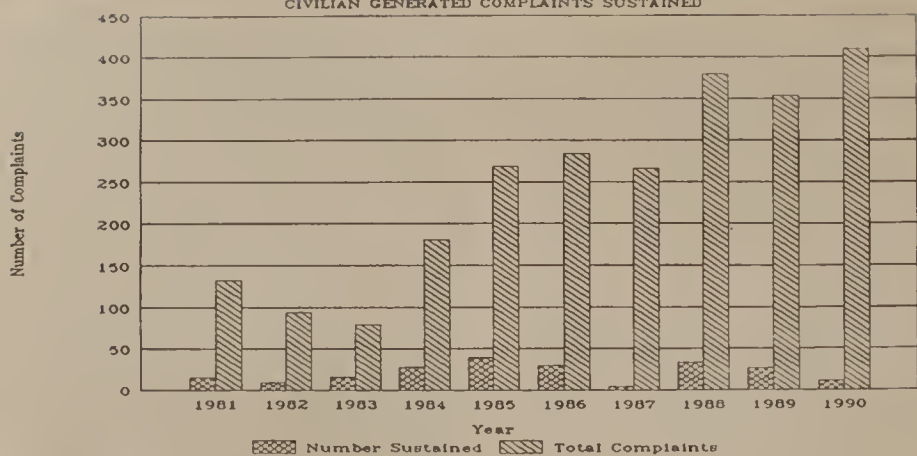
—filed from Boston

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# BOSTON POLICE INTERNAL AFFAIRS STUDY CIVILIAN GENERATED COMPLAINTS SUSTAINED



## Police

Continued from page 3

said Gorton, adding, "But, unfortunately, there are far too few video cameras around, as in Los Angeles, when the police brutalize members of the public."

In an effort to determine whether community charges against the IAD were founded, the Anti-Violence Project submitted a lengthy request for information from the IAD under the Freedom of Information Act. While they did not receive all the information they requested, Anti-Violence Project members released the data they were able to analyze at the widely-covered press conference. Alliance members told *GCN* that they will attempt to obtain further information about the IAD by submitting an appeal to the Massachusetts Secretary of State.

Anti-Violence Project members were quick to point out that while information they released contained the number of complaints sustained, they received no data about the number of sustained charges that are overturned on appeal. A member of the Boston Police Command staff, who did not want to be named, told *GCN* that "a good number of findings of misconduct are overturned." Cronin also pointed out that just because an officer is found guilty of misconduct, he or she will not necessarily be given any substantial punishment or reprimand.

"We know from our own experience that many gay and lesbian people, and probably many other people as well, never bother to file a complaint with Internal Affairs because of their perception that the process does not work," said Ellie Armsby, co-chair of the Anti-Violence Project. "What we've seen here is only the tip of the iceberg," she said, adding, "My guess is that the problem is probably much worse."

Upon reading the results of the study, Massachusetts Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston) said, "The Alliance's analysis is excellent; these statistics are disturbing. The mayor is urging a plan for better community-police relations. This cannot begin without public confidence in the integrity of the police."

At the press conference, the Anti-Violence Project joined many local citizens' groups in calling for the establishment of a Civilian Review Board to hear cases of police misconduct. They also publicly requested a meeting with Mayor Ray Flynn to discuss the implementation of such a board.

"We will continue to work in coalition with other oppressed communities to fight for the right of every citizen for equal protection," said Cronin. "This is a right we will never relinquish." □

## Porn

Continued from page 1

to make decisions against publishing certain things."

For instance, Beam said, "A few years ago, it was okay to show penetration, but now that's out of the question." He added that *Drummer* has learned not to feature bondage too prominently because federal officials are more likely to pursue a prosecution against bondage-related material. "Bondage is one of those things that causes bells to go off," he said.

Pat Califia, editor of *Advocate Men*, a widely-distributed porn magazine, said that she has also become wary of crossing an invisible boundary into illegal territory. "God knows we try to stay on the right side of the obscenity laws," Califia told *GCN*. "A lot of the reason we limit our visual materials is because we wouldn't want to risk getting busted."

Accordingly, Califia said, there are things *Advocate Men* will not depict. "We show no penetration, no body fluids, and no masturbation," she said, adding that the magazine generally restricts itself to "simple

nudity."

### 'Ill-defined'

Barry Lynn, legislative counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in Washington, D.C., told *GCN* he thinks one of the reasons people working in the porn industry feel so threatened by RICO is that the statute is so broadly phrased. "It's an ill-defined statute," said Lynn.

First, he said, the RICO standards that define "racketeering" are extremely loose. For instance, said Lynn, RICO "permits the government to argue that on the basis of the sale of two to three videos that [distributors] are engaged in a pattern of criminal conduct."

"Compounding this," said Lynn, "is that the definition of obscenity is vague." He added that RICO allows local communities to determine what constitutes obscenity—a process that makes for a multitude of definitions. "The average person doesn't have a clue as to whether community standards will find [her or his material] obscene."

In addition, Lynn said, federal officials enforcing RICO have the power to seize all materials that might be related to alleged racketeering—anything from the defendant's business files to her bank account to his home. The financial burden associated with seizure, along with the cost of having to travel to the usually far-away location of a RICO prosecution, is enough to bankrupt many porn dealers, Lynn said.

Because RICO has such a long arm, Lynn said, the effect of the statute is to scare porn dealers out of the business as well as to close them. "It's just too big a risk," Lynn said. "People tell me, 'Before RICO I was willing to take a chance, but [now] I'm shutting down.'"

### 'Damn hard'

In fact, said Califia, the simple fact of being investigated under RICO can be debilitating. "If they take your car, your bank account, your computer? It's like, 'Fuck you!' It's really damn hard."

In addition, Califia said, people prosecuted under RICO face an uphill legal battle. "There are problems with defending these cases," she said, adding, "There's very little popular support for them. You cannot count on the ACLU to take on all of these cases."

Because federal officials "selectively choose conservative venues" in which to prosecute RICO cases, Califia said, it may be "exhausting" just to sustain a defense.

Finally, said Califia, many people plead guilty to RICO charges in order to avoid the expense of defending themselves. Unfortunately, she said, "That creates a body of case law that says you can't fight this and win."

—filed from Boston

## Hate crimes

Continued from page 3

represented acknowledgment by the federal government that anti-gay violence is "a serious problem, and that no response to bigoted violence can ignore that issue."

### Implementing the law

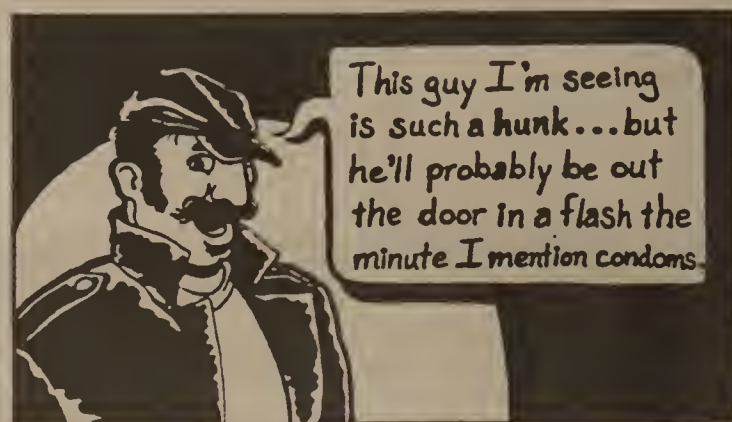
NGLTF fears that homophobes in Congress and other forces that fought against passage of the Hate Crimes Act may work to negate the law's impact by trying to limit funding. The next step, Berrill stressed, is to ensure that Congress makes funds available for implementation.

He added that, "We must work with state and local officials to make sure they implement this law. The FBI understands that law enforcement cannot do this job alone."

When Bush signed the Hate Crimes Act, the first federal legislation to specifically mention "sexual orientation," he said that collecting and publicizing information will "shore up our first line of defense against the

Continued on page 15

## Popular Myths About AIDS: #5



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## An army of lovers

The progressive gay movement is suspicious of the military's role in society, but shouldn't gay and lesbian people have the choice of enlisting?

*"Many a soldier's loving arm about  
this neck have cross'd and rested.  
Many a soldier's kiss dwells on  
these bearded lips."*

—from "The Wounded Dresser"  
by Walt Whitman

By Jeffrey R. Nickel

In the United States, the vast majority of discrimination against gay people is invisible. When someone is let go—or isn't hired—employers can always claim their actions are based on reasons other than homosexuality. Even in places where the law "protects" gay people, who can really prove anything? Were they fired for inadequate performance, or for being gay? Who knows? If employers told the truth, we would know. But why in the world would they, when they can lie with virtual impunity? What employer would be stupid enough actually to admit anti-gay discrimination? The United States military.

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines have said to thousands of people: Because you're gay or lesbian, you're fired. There's no mystery. They don't deny it. It's their policy. The most widespread, most blatant discrimination gay people experience in the U.S. exists not in businesses and corporations, but in the government. That should make us angry.

Yet even the gay community has been slow to care. Why? The gay rights movement, as a progressive movement, is suspicious of the military's role in society. Many of us wonder why *anyone* would go into the military, given its shameful history of interventionist misadventures. Some suspect that those who join up deserve whatever they get because the military system is *wrong*. Is it wrong? That's debatable. But whether we approve or disapprove of the military—or any other occupation—is irrelevant. The point is we deserve to have the choice. Freedom—in the rhetoric of the U.S.—is *not* debatable.

Why does the military hate us so? Their "reasons" are strikingly similar to those given when Black people and women first knocked on their doors. An excerpt from the Defense Department policy published in *Gays in Uniform* by Alyson Publications reads: "The presence in the military environment of persons who engage in homosexual conduct...seriously impairs the accomplishment of the military mission." We hear a lot of talk about morale problems, of how the armed services will literally cease to function if it's forced to accept gay people. The military knew those words by heart, because they'd sung that song before. When President Truman integrated Black people into the military in 1948, Pentagon officials worried out loud that this action would "seriously impair the accomplishment of the military mission." Similar voices were heard when women first entered West Point. The moral of this story is that *any* change—according to the Pentagon—equals gloom and doom. How many times can the military claim that the sky is falling before even they stop believing it?

Today's military says gay people can't be good soldiers. But history tells a different tale. The ancient Greeks sang praises for *ieros lochos*, a military unit made up entirely of male lovers. Sixteen hundred years ago, according to the K.J. Dover's *Greek Homosexuality* (1978, Howard), men in love cascaded down the Macedonian hillside to fight for honor to the death. Are we good soldiers? One study, conducted on the sexual behavior of World War I infantrymen, found that a disproportionately large share of military distinctions went to homosexuals. But because this conclusion was inconvenient, the study remained buried for decades. Similar findings were made just last year. The Pentagon went berserk when two reports written by its own staff concluded that homosexual soldiers are as good as or *better* than heterosexual soldiers. Whenever facts are uncovered that contradict the military's assumptions about us, they're simply ignored. The approach seems to be: "Let us hope it is not true; but if it is, let us pray it does not become generally known."

Indeed, gay people are often model soldiers. Jim Holobough's picture appeared in magazine ads extolling the virtues of college Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Yet they kicked him out, and even asked him to pay back his scholarship, just because he's gay. Joe Steffan sang the national anthem at football



games. But he was expelled from Annapolis, just weeks before graduation, when he told his commanding officer about his homosexuality. The military knew that Jim and Joe were very good soldiers. They knew it, and they couldn't stand it.

According to Mary Ann Humphrey's *My Country, My Right to Serve* (HarperCollins, 1990), in 1778—the beginning of American military history—General George Washington ordered the removal of all military personnel convicted of "sodomy." All the mumbo-jumbo about "liberty" and "equality" didn't mean anything for gay soldiers back then, and it means little more now. A gay man court-martialed for sodomy during the Korean War was quoted by Humphrey as saying, "I had no representation, no rights, no nothing." Another ex-soldier, who spent nine months in prison for sodomy, remarked: "I can't even vote, because I'm a felon." Being gay in the military cost these people their civil rights. And their conviction records will dog them for the rest of their lives.

For some the results are tragic. In a story related in *Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation in the State of New York*, published by the Governor's Task force on Gay Issues in 1986, one lesbian spent twenty years in the Air Force taking down testimony in sodomy-discharge cases. A male counselor she knew staunchly defended those gay soldiers on trial. One night, that counselor picked up a young airman, and they had sex. Soon after, he was found out by his commanding officer. Believing that he had no future, he committed suicide.

In the late 1950s, the Naval Intelligence Service raided a house of male prostitution and discovered that one of its clients was a top Navy official, according to *The Homosexual Matrix* by C.A. Tripp (McGraw-Hill, 1975). Years later, after his involvements had escalated into a public scandal, he jumped out of a window on the twenty-second floor of the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

One more story detailed by Humphrey involves a woman who was kicked out of Vietnam for being a lesbian. She returned home to her parents, only to find rejection again. With literally nowhere to go, she killed herself.

It's often easy for lesbian and gay people to hate the U.S. According to a startling bit of information in Richard Plant's *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals* (Henry Holt, 1986), when the Allies liberated the surviving concentration camp prisoners at the close of World War II, gay prisoners were forced to remain. It's incredible. The Americans and other Allies made it plain that on this one subject, they agreed with Hitler. In fact, according to Humphrey, the military liked the Nazi's ideas so much they plagiarized one of them. For a period following that war, gay military prisoners were segregated from other prisoners, and forced to wear what came to be known as "green stars." The symbol was

Continued on page 16



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# Ten years in the making

In celebration of a decade of GMSMA

By Frank Strona

**B**eing an out and practicing leathermen is a relatively easy thing when you work on the staff of a progressive organization like GCN. But I was recently reminded of the fact that not everyone has this luxury, when I went to New York to take part in the 10th anniversary celebration of Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA).

GMSMA, which has become as famous for its "Safe, Sane and Consensual" slogan as its promotion and support of the leather lifestyle, celebrated the first decade of its existence with panel discussions, workshops and a gala banquet and dance in a weekend-long gathering held in early March. Approximately 340 people reflecting a diversity of backgrounds attended the conference, a third of them women.

Being a part of the anniversary celebration felt like witnessing history in the making. It seemed natural that I was not the only representative from GCN in attendance, because it was in the letters pages of this paper that the original call went out in August

1980 seeking gay men in New York City "interested in forming an organization for those of us into exploring S&M, domination & submission, fantasies, kinky sex, etc."

Obviously, the letter was successful, because a large number of leather-S/M positive individuals (many affiliated with other groups, including some from as far away as London) came out to help with this celebration 10 years later. The attendees represented not only some of the diversity among the gay and lesbian communities, but among supportive straight leatherpeople, as well. There were members from groups as seemingly different as the Eulenspiegel Society and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

The entire celebration seemed to be designed for interaction, an important focus that contributed to the success of the weekend. Leather and S/M people were able to participate, experience and learn from a variety of workshops/demonstrations. Many topics were addressed, among them "Novices," "Romance," "Playing with Fire," and "S/M over 50."

continued on page 12



(l-r) Barry Douglas, David Weinbaum

## The power is ours

A decade of S/M pride—GMSMA's 10th Anniversary



By Rodger McFarlane

**I** was flattered to be invited to give the keynote address at the tenth-anniversary celebration of Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA), because I have long admired the community service GMSMA has provided. More important though, I admire many of the individuals who comprise the group for the nearly fearless personal examples they set every day in this repressed, oppressive, intolerant sorry excuse for a civilization we live in.

I have to admit, though, that it was pretty intimidating getting up to speak in front of the group. I couldn't imagine what a big twink like me would have to say to a bunch of folks whom I think of as much tougher and braver than I. (In fact, I secretly wondered whether Barry Douglas, GMSMA chairperson, Wally Wallace, longtime S/M activist or some of the members who know me well thought of this as some sinister way to humiliate me in front of a large group of strangers who would really, really enjoy watching me suffer.)

Two weeks before the March S/M celebration, I spoke at the Junior League's annual reception in New York, and my worst fear was that I would get my outfits and speeches mixed up. There may be some real hip

folks up on the East Side, but the S/M activists are in much closer touch with their true selves. They've also spent years delving into the nuance of concepts like "safe," "sane," "consensual" and "limits," so I thought I'd talk about the darker side—the lessons I've learned from coercion, from senseless violence to the spirit and body—and ironically how that prepared me for the tragic and brutal times we live in.

On average about once a week from the time I was three years old (as far back as I can remember) until I was 14 or 15, my mother—a World War II flight instructor with wardrobe and accessories to match—would punish me for real and imagined crimes by holding my head underwater or slapping my face with dozens of blows until I could take it without whimpering or moving. (When I was a screaming infant, I'm told she just fed me bourbon.)

Most often, my brothers and I were instructed to grab our ankles while she beat us as hard as she could with a three-foot length of one-inch black rubber hose. The game was almost always the same: stand still for five consecutive swings without squirming or uttering anything but "yes ma'am" in your strongest voice. Some times were worse than others. Each time we screamed or tried to

continued on page 13



## A GMSMA and S/M timeline

reprinted from GMSMA's anniversary program

August 2, 1980  
Brian O'Dell's letter published in *Gay Community News*

1980  
*Cruising Released*

August 1980  
First meeting resulting from Brian O'Dell's letter

1980  
First issue of *Folsom* published, lasts four issues

October 1980  
First issue of *Man2Man* published, lasts eight issues

Winter 1980-81  
Lesbian Sex Mafia founded

December 1980  
The name "Gay-Male-S/M Activists" adopted

January 14, 1981  
GMSMA holds its first public meeting

April 1981  
GMSMA holds its first program on health concerns

May 1981  
GMSMA moves meetings from National Gay Task Force Offices to Commercial Loft to accommodate larger audiences

June 1981  
GMSMA marches in the Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade for first time

July 3, 1981  
First Article about what would later be called AIDS in the *New York Times*

September 1981  
GMSMA moves meetings to church of the beloved disciple to accommodate larger audiences

1981  
SM Gays founded

1981  
*Coming to Power* by Samois published

December 1981  
GMSMA holds first Bizarre Bazaar  
GMSMA logo created by Peter Bertolami

April 1982  
GMSMA's first newsletter published

May 1982  
GMSMA holds its first program on what would later be called AIDS, "The 'Gay Cancer' and Other Scourges"

1982  
Vancouver Activists in S/M (VASM) founded

June 1982  
GMSMA Holds first joint program with Lesbian Sex Mafia

1982  
Somandros founded  
Dreizehn founded

January 1983  
GMSMA Holds first Master's Auction



# A lesbian looks at the GMSMA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

By Wickie Stamps

**A**s active members of the women-only play parties at the recently busted Boston dungeon, my partner and I have lost a crucial piece of our sexual expression and our community. In this space we explored lesbian sadomasochism, met other S/M women who were serious players, had access to safe equipment and, through watching other women, learned new techniques. Through the dungeon's co-gender events we also met leathermen who have become a part of our lives and our sexuality. This is now gone.

So when my leatherman pal slid the Gay Male S/M Association's (GMSMA) 10th anniversary conference announcement under my nose, my interest was whetted. Perhaps it was an opportunity to replace some of what my partner and I had lost. Perhaps we could meet New York/East Coast leathermen and women, hear about issues affecting our communities and attend the play parties that often surround S/M conferences.

"Yeah, but do they want women?" I asked my leatherman pal.

"Looks like it to me," he replied as he pointed to the pamphlet. My eyes followed to where he was pointing. *All interested men and women are invited*, it said in bold. Among the listed participants were members of the Lesbian Sex Mafia, a New York-based women-only S/M group, and a member of Women Hedonists into Pain (WHIPS), the Michigan Womyn's S/M organization. Plus, one of the GMSMA entertainers would be Lynn Lavner, a leatherwoman

comedian

"Yeah, but what will their attitude be?" I asked my leather pal.

"Call," he snipped and walked off. So I called. No only did I receive a warm welcome in my conversation with an organizer, but he offered me a badly needed scholarship.

So, off I went with my partner and my leatherman pal to the big celebration. Lesbian friends of ours from the New York Sirens motorcycle club—the dykes on bikes who annually lead New York's Pride Parade—graciously put us up. Throughout the weekend they'd meticulously draw us maps for navigating New York, act as fashion consultants as we dressed for GMSMA events and escort us to dyke nightclubs.

From the moment the doors swung open onto the first GMSMA reception, held at New York's Gay and Lesbian Community Center, the tone was erotic and friendly. Despite the frigid March air, the hall, packed with leathermen, was steamy. Fewer in number, but clearly visible among the leathermen, were pockets of leatherwomen. Everyone—men and women—quickly introduced themselves to my partner and me. The walls of the hall were covered with images of leathermen, and, like the crowd, S/M women were scattered amongst the men on canvass and in photos.

After a brief spurt of conviviality on our part, my partner and I quickly moved on to our priority—tracking down play parties. None had been organized by GMSMA but we

were told the Vault, billed as New York's newest club "for adventurous lesbians," was having a women's night until 11 PM. Several New York leathermen gave us detailed directions and offered to walk us over. But my partner and I got a lift from a professional female dominant and an S/M dyke artist whom we had just met.

We descended upon The Vault, a wonderfully slimy joint, where we were let in free of charge. While my partner chatted with S/M women whom we'd met at the reception and who had preceeded us to The Vault, I (with the female dominant in tow), cased the joint for play space. The professional dominant was quite familiar with the Vault and, once I chose a play space, she obtained from the doorwomen and the juice bartender some additional toys—rope, a paddle and an extra whip—that I would need to play.

Our play—a whipping scene—began. Quickly other dykes gathered in the back room and then began to play themselves. After the scene and more visiting with the New York leatherwomen, our Siren pals (plus entourage) stormed into The Vault. They updated us on upcoming art shows, S/M events and the aches and pains of the motorcycles, and then they swept us off to the hopping and infamous CLIT Club, the hottest lesbian bar in New York.

While at the CLIT Club we watched erotic dyke films and slide shows flash across the walls, danced shoulder-to-sweaty-shoulder on the packed dance floor and ogled the incredibly hot-looking semi-

continued on page 12

Continued on page 15





Trying it on for size

## Ten years

Continued from centerspread

These programs, combined with a Bazaar/Community Information Center and an Erotic Art/Steel Bondage Exploration, created an interesting and culturally enriching atmosphere. Plenty of time was built into the schedule for personal interaction among participants, affording all the chance to further discussion and debate among themselves. This spirit culminated in a banquet highlighted by remarks from members and friends of GMSMA, among them the group's chairperson, Barry Douglas.

Douglas electrified the crowd with his discussion of freedom. "People always talk about the price of freedom as if it were some rare and precious commodity that had to be doled out in small amounts to a few special people who are willing to pay the price," he said. "I say freedom is only valuable when you give it away. And it is the only thing you have more of, the more you give to others. In fact, unless you are prepared to let others have freedom, you can not have any for yourselves."

A stirring keynote address was delivered by former Gay Men's Health Crisis director and current Broadway Cares Executive Director Rodger MacFarlane (the text of which appears in this issue). Entertainment was provided by comic/leather lesbian Lynn Lavner who talked about being a leather dyke from a Jewish background. She spoke of the impact of appearing in front of one of the first mixed gay/lesbian leather crowds during a recent appearance in Australia. She also poked fun at the many complexities created by living in leather.

By its very existence, GMSMA provides a much needed vehicle for community support and empowerment. During its anniversary celebration, the organization gave many of us the chance to refuel the strength needed to live life as leatherpeople. I commend GMSMA for the incredible job of helping to define S/M as a stable and organized lifestyle. May the group flourish and enrich many lives. □

## S/M lesbian

Continued from centerspread

nude dyke dancers. At about one in the morning, our hostesses threw us in a cab and took us home.

After a night of hot, raw lesbian energy, the Saturday GMSMA workshops left me hungry for a stronger S/M lesbian presence and voice. The "S/M Erotic Art and Photography" workshop featured two exceptional GMSMA slide shows of gay male erotic art and photography. The slides brought to mind the lesbian S/M artists and



Newslink, GMSMA's newsletter

photographers that I had just spent the evening with, and reminded me of West Coast lesbian S/M artists doing similar work.

During "The Image of S/M in the Media" panel, facilitated by a woman, I was again aware of the plethora of issues facing lesbian S/M writers, the invisibility and struggle of lesbian S/M publications, and the painful history between S/M lesbians and antipornography women that is so scantily covered by the press. Similarly, during the "Old Guard, New Guard, Avant-garde" panel I was alone with my thoughts about the changing face of the Women's S/M community and the thousands of unspoken dialogues among S/M lesbians of every race, class and age.

That night at the GMSMA evening celebration, a speaker acknowledged the years of struggle by S/M lesbians against censorship at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. I was heartened by the applause of leathersmen in the crowd because I knew one of our lesbian S/M battles was being recognized and supported. Throughout the weekend, conference organizers acknowledged the need for more of this support and visibility.

During our ride back to Boston my leatherman pal and my partner quickly conked out, and as I drove I was left alone with my thoughts. I was grateful to the men of GMSMA for including lesbians in their celebration. I was thankful that, unlike Boston, New York still has a place for S/M women to play. But I am hungry for my reflection, my voice and the right to my own sexuality. □

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# Power

Continued from centerspread

break away, the count began again.

After the floggings, when we were little kids, Mom would sit on the toilet and drape us one at a time across her lap while she painted the bleeding welts and bruises on our naked backs, butts and thighs with the witch hazel we brought her from the ice-box, while she wept and made us tell her over and over why we made her do these things us.

It took years before I would take her first five no-hold-barred stripes—even then I was a rebellious little smartass—and years more of analysis before I found any value at all of in this abuse. By the time I left home, perverse as it might seem, just about no one could really hurt me because I had learned to tolerate maximum pain from the only person whose approval I coveted. My crazy mother had done me a favor. Of course, that was long before I learned that there were many powerful people out in the world who would try to murder me.

I spent my late teens learning humiliation and discipline the standard ways: smelly strangers in cheap motels; red-neck fag-baiters in Alabama; flunking out of college with a nasty knack for quaaludes; landing my ass in boot camp before the end of the fucking Vietnam War. Basic training, for those of you who haven't had the pleasure, is the place where this Neanderthal butch number with a sharp stick up his ass and a ball cap monogrammed "Daddy" kicks you out of bed every morning about three; herds you into the can calling you a maggot; slams you to your knees and stands on the back of your neck in his field boots pissing all over your hands, while he taunts your manhood as your fail some impossible number of command-performance push-ups on the toilet floor, every night for 16 weeks. What good soldiers and sailors we would become.

Next came sub school. That was where they daily lead you one at a time into a pitch dark, slimy, steel antechamber at the bottom of a 50-foot shaft of water towering straight up above you. Just to get you in the right frame of mind they tell you, "This is in case your submarine sinks." Then two guys in black rubber suits with aqualungs hold you down naked with your boots on, while you suck in your last breath of pressurized gas and the room fills with water. You wait one minute in the room underwater, then the door to the tower slowly opens; the scuba Nazis hold you down some more just for fun. Then they punch you in the stomach repeatedly and drag you back down to make sure you swim to the top slower than the bubbles exploding from your tortured lungs so violently that you think your head will be blown apart. God knows everyone should have a chance to learn to act calmly when a fucking submarine is going down.

I passed Marine Fire-Fighting and High-Performance Driving Schools, but mostly I learned to scream like an impaled girl-ninja. I loved small arms and hand-to-hand training best because they simply shot at and beat the shit out of us every day, no head-trips at all. But in Nuke School we were sleep-deprived through 24 months of 16-hour supervised military study halls, and forced to cram so many particle physics and nuclear engineering courses so fast that even the Einsteins were made to feel stupid after the first few weeks. And in one last secret school where some evil white men fucked with my psyche, I learned to kill on cue without batting an eye.

It just got heavier in my twenties.

Although once, trapped for five months 200-feet under the polar ice cap aboard an ultra-classified fast-attack submarine near the Soviet Union, a gang of highly frustrated sailors—"squids" we called them—stripped and beat me, smeared my entire body with jet-black molecular-silicone grease, and locked me in a spine-shattering 28 degree sea-water shower closet until I was clean. (It must have been something I said.)

Of course, that was nothing compared in sheer terror to surviving a secondary steam link in our mondo-megawatt nuclear power plant more than 400-hundred feet under the Atlantic, and far, far worse things only the bad guys know and I can never tell about. Our commanders said the pressure kept us on our toes, steels your nerves and all that, and they kept coming up with more twisted ideas. A lot of people wigged out. Some blew their brains out. I just stayed pissed until I got out. Friends were hard to come by, harder to keep. I learned to trust no one.

My deepest masochistic impulses were finally realized when I moved to New York with my useless medals and trophies, and began class at American Ballet Theater. After ballet, not until the AIDS wars began, would I ever again witness such exquisite melding of abject psychological horror and unimaginable physical agony at the hands of a bourgeois enemy before a jeering crowd. Like Jesus on the cross, I learned once and for all that there are always more terrible lessons waiting to be taught. But these are the things that make sissies tough. They build endurance.

Life has been pretty fucking terrifying these last 10 years. I guess it always was for some, and we're just getting an extra turn at hell on earth. Women know it. Poor people know it. Anyone who wears their leather to a job interview or family reunion knows it. People with AIDS thrive on it. They all know that if you show weakness or fear, your oppressors will grind you down and eat you alive. If you so much as flinch when they will you to die, the monsters will kill you themselves.

Most of us have literally and figuratively been forced to our knees at gunpoint and made to ingest shit. Unless we beat the bloody hell out of them every day, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health would leave us to die. Queers and perverts made rich by the masses deny us even under siege. Churches and schools lie to children about us, and these children grow up to crush our skulls with claw hammers in alleys, or stand silent while others do. Family, friends and strangers on the goddamned street fuck with me every day. They all conspire to make us disappear. But no matter what the assholes dish up, I know that we can take it and keep coming back. Nothing George Bush or John Cardinal O'Connor or any other dipshit fascist can say or do can make all of us disappear unless we let them. The power is ours.

My S/M brothers and sisters know the drill. Next to Jewish people who have survived Hitler, we're the best in the world at it. Write checks until it hurts very, very deeply. Then get on top and make someone else do it. Build businesses and institutions, vote and organize and volunteer and teach and preach and confront and fight and raise hell in the streets until you are numb—then get up and do it again. Kick the shit out of anyone who fucks with you without your consent. But mostly, shove your leather rudely in their faces. As Michaelangelo Signorile said in *OutWeek*, "Rub their noses in it, ram it down their throats. Shoot your appalled and outraged load straight in their eyes."

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# SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

## HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

## INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers)!
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

## RESOURCE NUMBERS

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AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331  
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248  
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655  
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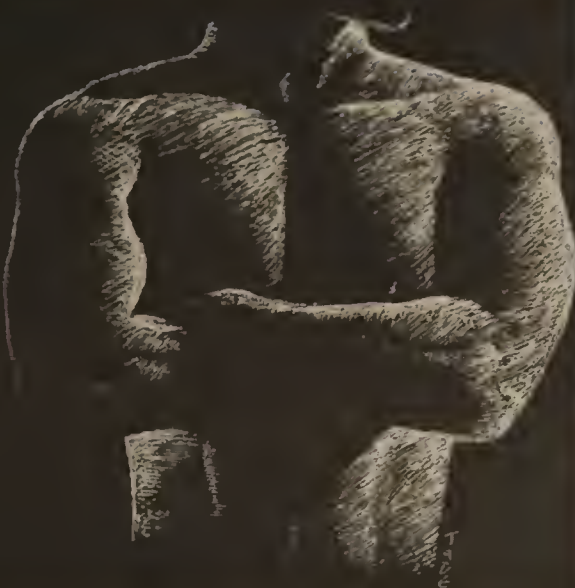
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## **Hate Crimes**

Continued from page 8

erosion of civil rights—alerting the cops on the beat.”

Another precedent was marked by that ceremony: it was the first time openly gay and lesbian people were invited to attend a presidential bill-signing. Vaid, however, was barred by administration officials because she had disrupted a speech about AIDS given by Bush less than a month earlier.

The hate crimes law—passed by Congress after years of coalition-building by NGLTF, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union, among others—requires the Justice Department to collect data on crimes based on prejudice against race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Vaid credited Berrill’s “huge role” over nine years for putting a “problem that we knew always existed on the front-burner.” To hear the FBI director “with all the right-wing heat generated against us, mention [NGLTF] and say [the FBI] condemns crimes motivated on prejudice because of sexual orientation, was amazing,” she said.

The new legislation, according to Berrill, “will transform the way law enforcement deals with not only hate violence, but with the communities that are the target of these attacks. This measure will lead to competent and sensitive handling of anti-gay violence and other crimes motivated by prejudice.”

Berrill also said that participation in the FBI’s newly-enlarged Uniform Crime Reports is voluntary. States that do not collect data on sexual orientation will not report anti-gay attacks to the FBI, he cautioned. Anti-gay legislators in Georgia, Illinois, New York, and elsewhere have blocked hate-crime bills with sexual orientation protections.

“It will take years before data collection will ever begin to approximate the actual level of violence and the dimensions of the problem,” said Berrill.

In addition, other groups targeted for hate violence must join efforts by gay men and lesbians to provide all victims “the encouragement, advocacy and assistance they need to report these crimes,” he urged. And law enforcement officials must be trained “to identify, classify, investigate and prosecute anti-gay violence in a competent and sensitive way—a whole new transformation in how they interact with our communities, where historically, relations have been tense at best.”

Police in most areas still view gay men and lesbians more as perpetrators than as targets of violence, Berrill said. “This legislation establishes that anti-gay violence is a crime that law enforcement officials need to address in the same ways they address rape, domestic violence, child sexual abuse—in a competent and sensitive way,” Berrill said.

People leaving the ceremony noticed a quote from former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover on the courtyard wall that said, “The most effective weapon against crime is cooperation—the efforts of all law enforcement agencies with the support of the American people.”

“Now the issue of hate crimes has arrived,” said Berrill, “and we’re part of the equation.” □

## **Timeline**

Continued from centerspread

June 1983

GMSMA holds first Leather County Fair

August 1983

GMSMA adopts new, more comprehensive Statement of Purpose

October 1983

GMSMA moves meetings to Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center; buys 160 chairs for use at the Center (a total of 310 chairs—and 12 tables—will be donated to the Center by GMSMA)

1984

Sigma founded

June 1984

GMSMA organizes first Leather Pride Night, raising \$2,390 for Christopher Street Liberation Day committee

1984

*Urban Aboriginals* by Geoff Mains published

August 1984

GMSMA establishes Community Involvement Committee

December 10, 1984

GMSMA’s first president, Richard Hocutt, dies of AIDS

1984

Disciples of De Sade founded

January 23, 1985

GMSMA holds first bondage fashion show

June 1985

GMSMA organizes second Leather Pride Night, raising \$2,627 for Heritage of Pride

1985

People Exchanging Power founded

September 1985

GMSMA changes membership structure from attendance-based to dues-based; 356 join in first year

November 1985

City closes Minshaft, citing AIDS crisis; ensuing licensing and tax-evasion scandal keeps it closed

November 23, 1985

GMSMA holds first Leatherfest

1986

*Drummer* magazine (and related titles) sold to Desmodus

June 1986

GMSMA organizes Third Leather Pride Night, raising \$4,000 for Heritage of Pride

November 1986

GMSMA spearheads organizing for special leather-S/M contingent for 1987 March on Washington and National Leather-S/M conference to be held the same weekend

August 1986

GMSMA establishes Hocutt-Ferguson Fund to assist PWAs

June 1987

GMSMA organizes Fourth Leather Pride Night, raising \$7,945 for Heritage of Pride and the Leather-S/M outreach committee for the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

September 13, 1987

GMSMA past president Geoff Ferguson dies of AIDS

October 10, 1987

National Leather-S/M conference held in Washington, D.C.

October 11, 1987

Hundreds of thousands march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights

February 13, 1988

National meeting of leather and S/M activists in Dallas, organized as a result of National Conference in Washington; “Safe, Sane, Consensual Adults” (SSCA) is formed

June 1988

GMSMA organizes fifth Leather Pride Night, raising \$7,036 for Heritage of Pride and the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center

November 1988

GMSMA invited to speak at National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s first Creating Change Conference

March 1989

Robert Mapplethorpe dies of AIDS

June 1989

GMSMA organizes sixth Leather Pride Night, raising \$10,434 for Heritage of Pride and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

June 25, 1989

GMSMA organizes massive S/M-leather contingent for 20th anniversary of Stonewall Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade in New York

July 1989

Corcoran Gallery cancels Mapplethorpe show; National Endowment for the Arts funding controversy begins

September 1989

Congress passes law barring NEA funding for S/M or homoerotic art

September 27, 1989

GMSMA holds its first program on the Mapplethorpe censorship and N.E.A. controversy

March 1990

New York City closes safe-sex clubs in wake of social club fire (and delays in re-inspecting and re-issuing occupancy and operating licenses)



# Army

Continued from page 9

slightly different, but the *symbolism* was exactly the same. Gay people were nobody, they were nothing.

The military experience of Black people during the second world war is like that of gay people today. Black people also were asked to fight for "freedom" and "democracy" abroad, while they were denied them here at home. One soldier wrote: "If we win, I lose. The Army jim-crows us. The Navy lets us serve only as messmen. The Red Cross refuses our blood. Employers and labor unions shut us out. Lynchings continue. What more could Hitler do than that?" What more, indeed? Black soldiers knew that even if they did come out alive, they would return to conditions as devoid of equality as anything they'd experienced overseas. Yet many fought anyway. In his journal, quoted in Howard Zinn's *Declaration of Independence: Cross-Examining American Ideology* (Vintage, 1990) this same Black soldier wrote a prayer:

Dear Lord, today  
I go to war:  
To fight, to die.  
Tell me, what for?  
Dear Lord, I'll fight,  
I do not fear,  
Germans or Japs  
My fears are here.  
America!

Our fears are here. Considering that gay people have few freedoms here in the U.S., why would we fight for "freedom" abroad? And given the military's particularly shameful treatment of gay people, it's certainly no surprise that many of us oppose it fiercely. What is surprising is that some of us still want to serve. It's astonishing: America spits on us and still we want to serve. Perhaps patriotism is, for some gay people, a kind of masochism. We enter the military willing to put ourselves in danger, and we're rewarded by witch hunts and ruined lives.

Can the military believe that its policies actually exclude gay people? What a charade that is. In 1948, Alfred Kinsey found that thirty-seven percent of all military personnel had, at some point, "engaged in some form of homosexual activity." Even if the armed services were able to discover who's gay or bisexual—an impossibility—how could they afford to lose so many people? How would "national security" be affected if four in ten soldiers disappeared tomorrow? And how about college freshmen in ROTC programs, who may not even realize they are gay until perhaps their junior or senior year? What shall we do about *them*? The military has tried to make gay cadets pay back their tuition, but in the end these people get scholarships with no service. They want to serve, but aren't allowed to do so.

If homosexuality were such an ominous threat to defense, anti-gay directives would be applied with consistency and equanimity. This is hardly the case. In peacetime it's fairly strict. A mere rumor about someone is often enough to start a full investigation. However, in times of war—when additional personnel are required desperately—the military looks the other way. When World War II began, procedures were put in place to weed out homosexual recruits. But as the fighting wore on, these procedures were increasingly ignored. Some drafters were even required to *prove* their homosexuality. Perry Watkins first told the Army he was gay back in 1973, near the end of the Vietnam War. They told him "Never mind." But in the early 1980s, the Army reversed course and dismissed him. Just last year, the courts ordered his reinstatement, arguing that once the Army had decided homosexuality didn't matter, it did not have the option of changing its mind.

The result of all this is that gay men and lesbians are likely to be shut out of the benefits of serving in peacetime, while they are equally likely to be compelled to fight when there's a real war on. The precept is that gay people are a menace to the military, unless they're actually *needed*. U.S. military history clearly shows that gay people are no threat at all, even in crisis situations. Other countries have found that we're equally innocuous in the everyday military environment. Israel, France and several other nations mandate universal military service. Yet they have no need for anti-gay policies. Could it be that other cultures are not so dominated by the absurdly "macho" attitudes that permeate ours?

A growing awareness of the inevitability of change has caused the military to act in strange ways. As stereotypes fade, the case against gay soldiers shows more and more holes. The armed services repeat the same old homophobic lines, making it harder and harder for them to go back on them, as one day they must. And the world outside grows

ever more intolerant of the military's blatantly discriminatory practices. They're on the defensive now and they'll do almost anything to stem the inevitable.

This tug-of-war, so to speak, caused contemptible scapegoating during the U.S.S. Iowa incident. What happened on that ship is, unbelievable. A gun turret exploded, killing forty-seven sailors. Rather than assigning blame to its likely *cause*—faulty materials and procedures—the Navy constructed an elaborate and vicious fiction: a gay midshipman, they claimed, detonated a bomb because his boyfriend—a shipmate—rejected him. This is *exactly* the kind of dire consequence the military predicts will happen if homosexuals are "allowed" in. But it *didn't* happen. There was no evidence whatsoever to substantiate the claim. That didn't matter, though. With one fantastic story, the Navy removed blame from itself and caused hundreds of people to believe that a gay relationship had caused the death of their loved ones.

Are gay people "security risks" as this tale was meant to suggest? Three years ago, at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, two heterosexual servicemen were caught giving information to female Soviet spies in exchange for sexual favors. Can we conclude, based on this evidence, that heterosexuals pose a security risk? It is more evidence than exists against gay soldiers. Despite the concern that someone's homosexuality would be prime material for blackmail, there is no proof of that *ever* having happened. But even if it did, the remedy would be easy: End the discrimination and insist that everyone come out of the closet. If it's no secret, there's no risk. As one soldier quoted by Humphrey put it: "I know who I am, 360 degrees around me. I *can't* get backed into a corner, because I can see behind me."

In November 1989, a protest against the military's anti-gay policies was held in front of the White House. While listening to the speakers, I scanned the crowd of approximately 75 people. My eyes fell on a soldier in full, blue uniform. He stood upright and clean-cut, looking like he'd stepped out of a recruitment poster. I thought about the courage it must have taken to merely *be* there while still serving in the military. I asked several people around me who he was, but no one knew. I later went to speak with him, but he was gone. That soldier is the future. He's the calm portrait of tomorrow's military: a military in which gay people will serve without trepidation. That day has to come. America either means its rhetoric or it doesn't. Equality of opportunity applies either to everyone or only to some. Because these answers are obvious, it is clear that this country's defense policy is indefensible. There's no "neutral" position on prejudice. We can only choose between supporting it or helping to tear it down. Now, the military has that choice. In a very short time, it will not. □

## Coming out

Continued from backpage

facilitating an individual's next step in the coming-out process," she said. "We deal with relationships in the family and homophobia. The meetings are a time for sharing and listening on several levels."

Chapin Smith says the weekly one-and-a-half-hour meetings are held in her living room. For information, call Chapin Smith at 617/876-2113 or Cranston at 617/350-3760.

For lesbians and gay men living in the Taunton area, the Associates for Human Services provides ongoing mixed therapy groups. According to therapist, Rebecca Priest, the sessions are held weekly for 12 weeks.

"Primarily the age range is between 18 and 30," says Priest, and it usually is 50-50 men and women. The topics discussed revolve around coming-out and deal with such issues as relationships and "developing a positive gay identity."

A new group starting in April is open to a maximum of 10 people. For information, call Associates for Human Services at 508/824-5637. □

Gay and Lesbian

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would love to hear the latest about alternative electronic media. Jot it down and dash it off to Trix Radio c/o GCN.

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Met Key West Feb. 3rd—La Ti Da Tea Dance. Jeff 203-846-9890 or 203 222-5858 (42)

GAY, BI STRAIGHT?

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I like watching Pee Wee's playhouse but often get odd reactions to it. Would anyone like to write and tell me why you like watching it too? I'd like to integrate these reactions into my master's thesis on gay culture. Please write to Emerson College, Ken Feil c/o Nancy Withers 130 Beacon Street Boston MA 02116

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New England Central America Network needs volunteers in our Jamaica Plain office. We are dedicated to stopping the U.S. war against Central America and its effects on problems here at home. Please call Susan at 524-3636 (39)

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on PROS/CONS SAME SEX MARRIAGE. Interviewing longterm couples opposed to marriages, couples who've had ceremony. Contact: Suzanne, 5337 College, #157, Oakland, 94618 415/267-5535. (39)

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Matthew Simmons and Jim Murphey invite you to a sacred sex seminar developed by Joseph Kramer. (No lecture) In this hands-on weekend of erotic explorations and sexual initiations you will experiment with sacred sex rituals based on Tantric, Taoist, and Native American traditions. Learn 25 erotic massage strokes to enhance and prolong orgasm. Boston-May 11, 12. 9am-6pm. Cost is \$250. For information call Body Electric School at (415) 653-1595 or Jim Murphey at (617) 282-1181. Honor your sexuality! (38)

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Research Project Manager

Full-time position for M.P.H. or M.S. with background in HIV research and epidemiology. Manages research staff, clinical data and specimens; analyzes and presents data in written formats; monitors and participates in daily running of two HIV studies — including interaction with research participants. Knowledge of dBase III+ preferred.

Primary Care Nurse

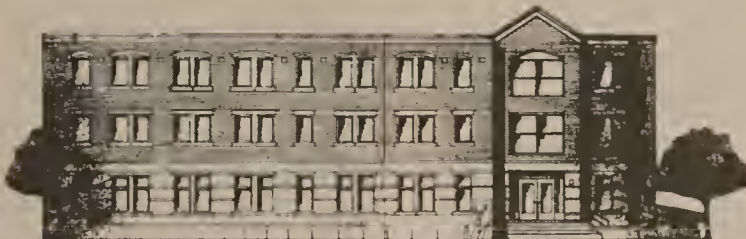
Full-time position in HIV Treatment and Nursing Care Center for nurse with BSN, one year medical or surgical nursing experience, home or ambulatory care, and/or chronic illness management background. Providing aerosol, IV and oral therapies; physical assessments; patient education. Willing to work as part of

an interdisciplinary team that includes other nurses, other medical professionals, social workers, etc. Must be comfortable with a diverse patient population that includes ethnic, linguistic, cultural and sexual minorities. Especially seeking nurses who are bilingual in Spanish and/or French-Creole.

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Part-time, high profile position for out-going individual with a positive attitude. Responsibilities will include switchboard coverage, client flow, making appointments, data entry. Lots of contact with clients and patients both in person and on the telephone. Previous switchboard and computer experience is required. Experience in a medical setting is highly desired. Mostly daytime hours, some evening coverage will be needed.

We offer competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and a dynamic, progressive environment. Please forward resume to: David Passer, Personnel Coordinator, Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115. No telephone calls please. FCHC is committed to equal opportunity employment. Women, persons of color, lesbians and gay men are encouraged to apply.



FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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And we are. We provide compassionate, comprehensive medical and mental health services, substance abuse treatment and HIV education to area residents and to members of New England's lesbian and gay community. Our innovative HIV Research and Treatment Programs are nationally recognized and our services are highly respected by the medical community. See what a difference your abilities make here:

Assistant Director

Key position for outstanding individual with Business, Social Service Management or other relevant management degree or equivalent experience in not-for-profit organization. Assist Executive Director in the management of a 100 employee health center primarily serving greater Boston's lesbian and gay community, with a \$7 million annual budget. Includes primary responsibility for administrative and fiscal departments, as well as some program coordination. Minimum of 2-4 years' exp. in management of not-for-profit organization, including personnel, fiscal, facility, and/or programmatic management. Supervisory experience is required. Anticipated employment start date is June, 1991. Salary commensurate with experience, starting mid-40's.

Associate Research Director

Important position for person with a Doctorate degree in a health related field with research experience, clinical background preferred but not required; or Master's degree in clinical area, research experience required. Responsible for the development and management of Research department whose primary focus is HIV-related research. Includes supervision of staff; development of contracts and agreements with contractors and subcontractors for services; preparation of research proposals; budget management; staff liaison to Institutional Review Board; consultation with other departments regarding research ideas/needs; participation on health center's Sr. Management Team. Anticipated employment start date is June, 1991. Salary commensurate with experience, starting mid-40's.

We offer competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and the satisfaction of seeing your work make a difference. Please send your resume, and salary requirements by May 1, 1991, to: Mike Savage, Executive Director, Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115. All inquiries will be handled in strict confidence. No telephone calls please. FCHC is committed to equal opportunity employment. Women, persons of color, lesbians and gay men are encouraged to apply.



AUDITION

Dancers, Actors, Movers: Dance Umbrella's presentation of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane & Co.'s "The Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin," April 13, noon-3pm, registration 11:30am, BU's School for the Arts, 855 Commonwealth Ave. Jones seeks 39 people from Greater Boston Community differing in age, ethnic background, sexual preference and body type.

Women owned restaurant, Rockport, Ma. wants motivated energetic Prep/Line cooks. Seasonal April-Oct. Will train right person. Advancement possible. Great staff. (508) 546-9593 (508) 283-8008 (38)

RECEPT/OFFIC ASST.

Human services agency seeks a dependable, meticulous, friendly individual to answer phones, greet clients, perform light bookkeeping and other general office duties. Informal but busy office. Ability to speak a language other than English helpful. Position to begin late June. \$17,000-\$20,000 DOE plus excellent benefits. Equal Opportunity Employer. Send resume to: Cambridgeport Problem Center, 1 West Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (29)

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OFC Qual. Tchr. Parent/teacher coop. Aft. position. 30 hrs. 19.5K+ health + generous vac. Minority cand. strongly encouraged. Aff. Action Hiring. Resumes by 4/4 to: Oxford St. Daycare Coop, 25 Francis Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. 547-3175 (38)

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LF seeks same for 3 flr rent-controlled house. Backyard, driveway, near T. Other species welcome. \$283 for bedroom and study. Call 661-6771

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LF 35 seeks 2 responsible LF to share house. 4 BR, 2 BA, Deck, pool, yard, off st. parking, washer, dryer and more \$375/mo incl. all. Avail. 1 May 508-653-3766 (41)

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\$300 plus util. fully furnished rm w/ TV in gay home available May 1st thru Sept./Oct. Full use of kitchen, laundry rm, living rm. On street parking, 1 block from T. Red line, Shawmut stop, Dorchester. Call Frank, 426-4469 days 10 AM-4PM.

Lovely apartment, Milton-Dor. T & expressway. 2 LFs, 36 & 38 (anthropologist and writer) No smoke/drugs. Dog/cat, no more animals. \$270+ 825-2752

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Two lesbians 33 & 44; 3 cats seek lesbian to share spacious apartment between Porter and Davis convenient 4 bedrooms porches W/D backyard. We are friendly and independent. No more pets. No smokers. Available April 1. Rent \$325+ 625-4298

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Wanted: nonsmoking L to share country farmhouse 50 miles from Boston. Wood heat, garden space, piano, ping pong. Pets negotiable. \$300. Barter possible. 508-386-7737 (32)

#### SOMERVILLE

2LF, 2 cats seek L/Bi F for homey 3BR in Winter Hill. Big, sunny spaces, porches, parking. Friendly, independent living, drug/smoke free. \$300+, 5/1. 623-5535.

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2 sober non-smkg GMs seek same to share large fum. 7rm apt with own unfum BR w/d near T \$275+ utils share expenses call 524-7705 (38)

Somerville, 3F, friendly and radical seek 1F, any race, any sexual preference, for coop. No smokers or furry pets, 202+, 623-5768

Cleveland Circle basement apartment seeks UNTIDY female housemate, 23+. Independent, responsible, considerate, respect privacy. Near 3 T lines! \$240 includes heat. Leave message 739-6566 now. (30)

#### N ALSTON

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Ecofeminist co-op with passion for popcorn, recycling shared meals seek L/Bi F. \$330+ Near Davis Square. Available now. Call 628-0878 or 623-0703. No pets, drugs, smoke. Min alcohol. (23)

3 LF seek 4th to share warm/friendly home. Close to Orange/Green line. Semi co-op. We have a dog. \$225+ woodstove, woodfloor, plants. Call 522-9351 (34)

2 LF seek M/F roommate 25+, near Orange line. W/D, DW, yard. Seek responsible non-smoker, must like cats. \$320+ utilities. Pagan inquiries welcome. 628-7744 (34)

#### WOLLASTON BEACH QUINCY

GWM/Black Lab sk quiet responsible GM to share 2 bdrm apt. on beach short walk to red line working fireplace, hwdw flrs, washer/dryer, dishwasher, parking, much more. \$325.00 plus 1/2 utilities. Available now. 770-1197 Larry leave message. (38)

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3 LF's seek LF for semi-coop 250+ Low utls. Near T. Great sunny house! Friendly, funky folks, 983-0599 Avail. May 1st poss. earlier (38)

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LF seeks L for sunny, spacious 5 rm. apartment. Porches, close to Davis Sq. T. No smoke, pets, drugs. \$275/mo. plus sec. Call 628-3216 (23)

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Two LF looking for lykable-dykeable lesbo 3BR house in JP. 250+, 3 cats, semi-veg, smoke + drug free, near T, call Susan 522-5123 Ashley 524-9961 (34)

Dorchester-Two political lesbians one Jewish one Jockish want LF to share house with large yard and porch. One block from Ashmont T 282-0046 (34)

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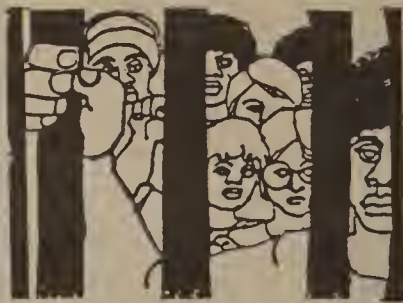
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## PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

#### NAACP PRISON PROGRAM

The Prison Program of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People seeks to aid men and women in prison by making available to them membership in this civil right's organization; to channel the energy and talents of prisoners into constructive pursuits; to aid prospective parolees in securing firm job commitments before their release; and, to reduce recidivism and tax dollars spent on prisons by returning ex-prisoners to communities as assets not liabilities. There are more than 4,000 prisoner members of the NAACP in 36 states. Prison branches sponsor educational classes, creative writing, athletic programs, job seminars. For more info about this, write Leroy Mobley, Director, NAACP Prison Program, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD. 21215.



Gay man, wants to know if there is a caring, loving, sincere younger man who can forget my past and build us a very sincere relationship? I've got to find a place to live soon too, cause my sentence is up in November. Please? Help if you care? John, W. Anderson, #17627, Utah State Prison, P.O. Box 250, Uint A #2, Draper, Utah, 84020-0258.

Soon to be out, T.S., 29, Radical, bitchy, dominant. Many large, warm, friendly "assets" to offer. Seeking free world contacts to share life, love and limb. (Smile) Jackie Johnson, #873384, CCH-175, P.O. Box 41, Michigan City, Indiana 46360.\_\_\_\_\_

Gay French-Italian, extremely good looking with darck curly hair, sexy eyes. Up for parole this spring. Interested in meeting crossdressers, transvestites and transexuals, but not a must. I love all that know how to love themselves. Looking for a good relationship!. Chris Allen Blosser, #182437, P.O. Box 600, Munising, MI 49862.\_\_\_\_\_

33 yr. old male wants letters from sensitive, caring people that are looking for a friend. Gary Bearden, #C-10886, P.O. Box 3476, 4-A 4-R #12 Corcoran, CA 93212.\_\_\_\_\_

I want to be loved and accepted for who I am, not condemned for my past mistakes. I am starving for love, affection, and attention. 22yrs old, love to read, write, sing quartet music and play basketball. I write articles and poetry and am studying to become a counselor for troubled kids. Long sentence, locked up since age 16. Not looking for pity or charity - just friendship! Jim Cowin, #854674, P.O. Box 30 (K-6), Pendleton, IN 46064.\_\_\_\_\_

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#### WOMEN SEEKING FRIENDS



Is there anyone out there who is looking for a lonely, loving female to share life with? If you are, please write! I'm being stifled in this heterosexual-oriented environment. Lynne Gray, #2912-67, Box 67, KCIW, PeWee Valley, KY 40056.\_\_\_\_\_

Lonely person, would love to hear from other gay women or anyone! Elgetha Thomas, #20118-MWC, ORW, 1479 Collins Ave., Marysville, OH 43040.\_\_\_\_\_



Aries, loves dancing and partying all night, brown skin, on the butch side, looking for anyone who will write me, male or female. Want to share some secrets and fantasies. Picture gets picture. Vernon Woodson, #BH2864, P.O. Box 200, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0200.\_\_\_\_\_

35 yr old man, wants to correspond with someone warm, sincere, and understanding. I'm so lonely with no one outside to write to. No games please. I'll answer all letters. Please send photo. Sorry, can't write other prisoners. Artis Wayne Dixon, #EF224141, G.S. P. Star Route, Reidsville, GA, 30499.

Gay man, 28, would like someone to write. I will write to all who write. I like old movies, and more. Howard Maltagart, #AM8604, R.D.#10, Box 10, Greensburg, PA 15601.\_\_\_\_\_

Black feminine man, 29, well built, seeking a feminine homosexual to make friends with. Lonely and need a friend to write. Kim Frazier, #073067, P.O. Box 747- P-1-S-9, Starke, Fla, 32091.\_\_\_\_\_

33 yr old, chocolate covered, muscular, animalistic and habit forming. I seek someone unique for perennial intimacy. Will answer all. Rickie DuBose, #186 -915, Box 5500, Chillicothe, Ohio. 45601.\_\_\_\_\_

Looking for fem queens, 30 or older, who will help a man who is down for a couple of more years. Photo please. Sorry, can't write other prisoners. Paul A. Mortimer, #6807047, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310.\_\_\_\_\_

Gay man seeks friendship with exciting older man. I would like someone I can share and care with. Bruce Brick, #145616, P.O. Box 260, Lexington, OK, 73051.\_\_\_\_\_

Looking for pen pals but also need an attorney badly! The Missouri court has railroaded me because I'm gay and I need all the help I can get. Thomas R. Barnes, #40851, 6-B-1, Potosi Correctional Center, Route 2, Box 2222, Mineral Point, MS 63660.\_\_\_\_\_

Ts, very very lonely, will be getting out soon. Would like to write other TS or gay males, age doesn't matter. I'm interested in a possible relationship. My interests are writing poems, drawing, nature, wearing erotic lingerie. Will answer all letters. Please write Darrell D. Grimes, #34153, A-200, L.C.F., P.O. Box 2, Lansing, KS 66043.\_\_\_\_\_



# CALENDAR

**19 April, Cambridge ♦ "Poison" Boston Premiere. Two weeks, starting today 4:30 p.m. Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St. 876-6837.**



Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please! Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and non-major cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

## 13 SATURDAY

Nashua, NH ♦ Gay '90s Costume Ball. Gay Info Line of NH. Gowns and tuxedos. Time and info: (603) 595-2650.

Provincetown ♦ P'town Positive / PWA Coalition Singles Tea. Second Saturday each month. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Mary's of the Harbor.

Boston ♦ Buddy's. Benefit for the L/G Comm. Ctr. 51 Stuart St. Details 247-2927.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Singles' Night. 7 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Cambridge ♦ L/G Film Tour: See schedule on page 20

## 14 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ Dykes' Dialog: Racism in the Lesbian Community. 4 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Braintree ♦ GLASS: G/L Alliance of South Shore. Second Sunday each month at Unitarian Church 6-8 p.m. Info: Brett 471-7939 or Lisa 335-6085.

## 15 MONDAY

Hanover, NH ♦ Panelmaking Workshops for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. First and third Mondays each month. Lutheran Church, 5 Summer St. 7 p.m. Info: Thom (603) 632-4145.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation Community Church of Boston, Copley Square above Back Bay Bistro. 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays each month. Info: 577-8123.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Lesbian Role Models — Stories." 8 to 10 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 16 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Pat Schwartz reads from "The Names of the Moons of Mars." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th flr. 287-7983.

Framingham ♦ Framingham G/L Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S.Framingham, MA 01701.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Aging in the Women's Community." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Body Image." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Coming Out Group. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Kids: Meeting Their Needs as Well as Your Own." 8 to 10 p.m. Lindemann Ctr., 25 Staniford St., Boston Rm. (Plaza lvl). 742-7897.

## 17 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ UMass Boston Pride Month Denim Day. 287-7983.

Boston ♦ Downtown Lesbians Brown Bag Lunch. 12:30 p.m. Third Wednesday each month. Info: Julie 725-3562.

Boston ♦ G/L/B Speakers Bureau "Workshop on Public Speaking." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th flr. 287-7983.

Cambridge ♦ Cambridge Lavendar Alliance: a progressive g/l/b group interested in local politics. 7 p.m. Ackerman Rm., City Hall. 354-7457.

Boston ♦ NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. NOW, 971 Comm. Ave. 7 p.m. 782-1056.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth. Open to g/l/b youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7p.m. Info: (508)755-0005.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Swing Dance Practice. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

## 18 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Pride Comm. General Mtg. Third Thursday each month. 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. business mtg. Info or volunteer packet: Pride Comm. 262-3149.

Boston ♦ "Beyond AIDS 101," an overview of AIDS and HIV. Third Thursday each month. AAC Rm. 401, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200 \*264.

Boston ♦ HIV Negative Gay Men Discussion / Support Group. AAC and FCHC. 7 to 9 p.m. Old South

Church, 645 Boylston St., 4th flr.

Cambridge ♦ Drop In at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About, Seacoast Lesbian Support Grp. Thursdays 7 p.m. "A Safe Place." 10 Vaughn Mall Ste. 10. (603) 778-3921.

Boston ♦ National L/G Task Force Open Mtg. To discuss "Strength in Numbers" campaign. L/G Comm. Ctr., Rm. 204, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Alliance of Mass. L/GM: "Racism in the Gay Community, Homophobia in the Asian Community." CPCS, Park Sq. Bldg., 250 Stuart St., Rm. 222. 7 to 8:30 p.m. UMass/Boston Pride Month. 287-7983.

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30p.m. (413) 527-5310.

## 19 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Women and AIDS: Keeping Women in Focus. A two-day conference and health fair sponsored by the Fenway Community Health Center and the Boston AIDS Consortium.

Worcester ♦ Lavender Lunch for Downtown Worcester G/L/B. Third Friday each month. Thai Orchid, 144 Commercial St. 1 p.m.

Cambridge ♦ "Poison" Boston Premiere. Two weeks, starting today 4:30 p.m. Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St. 876-6837.

Boston ♦ Friday Night Videos at the Center: "Before Stonewall" (documentary). 7 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr, 338 Newbury. \$2.

Boston ♦ Paul Monette Reads from "Half-Way Home." Glad Day, 673 Boylston (across from Boston Public Library). 267-3010.

Cambridge ♦ Open Discussion for Lesbians. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

## 20 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ 1991 Women and AIDS Conference: Keeping Women in Focus. 4/19 and 4/20. FCHC. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Boston ♦ "Once Upon Our Time": Multicultural Story Hour for Children (3-8) of G/L Parents and Friends. Third Saturday each month. J.P. Library, 12 Sedgwick St. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Limited space. Sign up: Marian or Jennifer 267-0900.

Boston ♦ Publication Party for "Bi Any Other Name." Glad Day, 673 Boylston (across from Boston Public Library). 267-3010.

Boston ♦ Lesbian Fun and Games. Smoke and alcohol-free. 338 Newbury St. 7 to 10p.m. Third Saturday each month. \$2 donation.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Singles' Night. 7 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Valerie Anastasio and Tim Harbold at the Center's Women's Coffeehouse. 7 to 10 p.m. 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Amherst ♦ Havdalah Rock. Jewish g/l and friends. Brief Havdalah then schmooze and nosh time. 8 p.m. Social Hall of Jewish Comm. of Amherst. (413) 256-1235.

## 21 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ 1991 Women and AIDS Health Fair. FCHC focuses on women, with workshops on massage, nutrition and safer sex issues. Free. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Writers' Group. 1 to 3 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Provincetown ♦ Margaret Erhart and Delia Sherman read from their works. Now Voyager, 357 Commercial St. 2 p.m. (508) 487-0848.

Boston ♦ Dykes' Dialog: L/B Women, A Dialog. Robin Oak. 4 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

SE Mass ♦ SMUUGLE: S.E. Mass Unitarian Universalist G/L/etc. Third Sunday each month in various south-of-Boston locs. 344-7030.

Dorchester ♦ Todd and Michael's Silent Movie Night: Buster Keaton's "The Scarecrow" and "The Three Ages" plus "Gertie," a cartoon. With music scores. 7 p.m. 288-0391.

Cambridge ♦ Chez Rhino, with Vin McCarthy. To benefit Boston L/G Pride Comm. OCBC. Info: Pride Comm. 262-3149.

## 22 MONDAY

Boston ♦ Kathleen Sands: "Dialog on L/G Sexual Ethics." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 2:30 to 4 p.m. Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th flr. 287-7983.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbians Age 20 +/- Meet. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap: "Erotic Writing Night." 8 to 10 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 23 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ "Longtime Companion." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 12 to 2 p.m. Wheatley Video Screening Rm., 3rd flr. 287-7983.

Boston ♦ David Scondras: "The State of the Gay Union" and "Domestic Partnership and the Family Protection Act." 2:30 to 4 p.m. Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th flr. 287-7983.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap: "Wimmin Only Space." 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Healing Services For All Affected By AIDS. 7:30 p.m. New England Baptist Hosp. 125 Parker Hill Ave. 628-7665.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap: "Jealousy." 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

## 24 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ "Longtime Companion." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 3 to 5 p.m. Wheatley Video Screening Rm., 3rd flr. 287-7983.

Boston ♦ Folksinger Peter Connelly: "Songs for ALL People." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 6 to 7 p.m. Wheatley L/G/B Ctr., 4th flr. 287-7983.

Springfield ♦ Springfield Coll. Gayness/Oppression/Homophobia Seminar Series: Breaking Religious Silence. 7 p.m. Locklin Hall Room 233, Springfield Coll. campus. Info: James Genasci (413) 788-3221.

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

## 25 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Angela Bowen: "Black L/G Lives." UMass/Boston Pride Month. 2 to 4 p.m. Wheatley Student Lounge, 4th flr. Reception follows in L/G/B Ctr., 4th flr. 287-7983.

Boston ♦ Fenway Living Well Forum: "The Mind / Body Link: Finding Control, Commitment, and Challenge." Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th flr. 7 to 9 p.m. 267-0900 x287.

Boston ♦ FCHC Living Well Series: Staying Healthy. Fourth Thursday each month. 7 to 9 p.m. BLC, 140 Clarendon St. 7th floor. Info: Rob 267-0900.

Cambridge ♦ Drop In at DOB Coffee Night. 7 to 9:30 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About, Seacoast Lesbian Support Grp.: "Building Healthy Relationships, Starting with Oneself." Thursdays 7 p.m. "A Safe Place," 10 Vaughn Mall Ste. 10. (603) 778-3921.

## 26 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Friday Night Videos at the Center: "Strangers on a Train" (Hitchcock). 7 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr, 338 Newbury. \$2.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbians Age 35 +/- Meet. 8 p.m. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. 661-3633.

Boston ♦ The Films of Jaime Humberto Hermosillo: "Matinee" and "Mary My Dearest." 5:45 and 7:30 p.m. Museum of Fine Arts. 267-9300 x305.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom Dance for L/GM and Friends. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., Centre and Eliot Sts. Beginner's waltz lesson at 8 p.m. Smoke free. \$5. Info: Jason Thomas 859-9455.

Jamaica Plain ♦ Ballroom Dance for L/GM and Friends. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. First Church of J.P., corner of Eliot and Centre Sts. Info: Jason Thomas 859-9455.

## SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. 247-2927.

## SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached workouts for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15 at Boston City Hosp. swimming pool. Ed 767-0449.

Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-In Center. (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of G/L Youth.) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 227-5794.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't

Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

## MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508)755-3773.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other areas: check listings.

## TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Boston ♦ Beantown Women's Rugby Club. Practice Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. until June. Info: Sue 776-1649 or Laurie 623-2341.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People" — with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

## WEDNESDAYS

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Informal Mtg. with Mayor Flynn's Liason to the Gay Community. Ann Sanders will be available 2 to 6 p.m. each Wednesday. The Center, 338 Newbury St. No appt. necessary, but Ms. Sanders can be reached at 725-3485.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

## THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Somerville ♦ Thursday Night Dinner Pgm., for people with and concerned with AIDS. Family style. Reservations requested but not necessary. Coll. Ave. Un. Methodist Church, 14 Chapel St. 6:15 sharp. 666-4130.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for L/G Civil Rights. Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8p.m. 828-3039.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

## FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.



By Melissa Wills

**T**he process of coming-out has a beginning but no end, it continues for a lifetime. Its implications invade every relationship: Family, friends, co-workers, strangers. Because of this, many gay men and lesbians turn to coming-out groups to discuss ongoing problems and issues within the structure of a supportive atmosphere.

Groups within the Boston area range from structured meetings held weekly for a determined period, to monthly sessions open to anyone who wishes to drop in. Some groups are mixed male and female and (unless specifically for youth), span the generations from the late teens to the fifties. While some groups charge fees, others are held for free. The following are some coming-out groups offered in and around Boston.

#### Lesbian and Gay Community Center

The Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 338 Newbury Street in Boston started two coming-out groups (one each for men and women) last September. The men's group drew an overwhelming response, and the Center started a second men's group in February. A third is scheduled to begin this month.

"The maximum number for each group is 15," Chris VanHaight, who launched the Center's first men's group, told *GCN*. A volunteer at the Center, VanHaight considers the Center a good, safe place for meetings.

"Many people in the group expressed the concern that going to a safe location is important," he said. "It is handy to get to, near the T. And the fact that we don't charge a fee for the group definitely fills a niche."

VanHaight said that the initial response to the groups was not overwhelming. "It took us about a month and a half to get things going," he said, "and now the groups fill a very large need. They are ongoing, and will keep meeting as long as people want to share personal issues about being gay."

The Community Center's women's coming-out group was started by therapist Kathy McDonald, who was recently succeeded by her friend Susan Bernstein, as facilitator.

"It's not a therapy group," Bernstein said of the meetings held twice a month. "It's a

## Boston area coming out groups

Finding help in the process



The Gay and Lesbian Community Center

supportive atmosphere in which women can be themselves, have fun, and talk about whatever topics they choose." Bernstein said the group had the option of being leaderless, but chose to have a facilitator help structure the sessions and keep the conversation flowing.

"Ages of participants range from early twenties to forties," she explained, "and each person is in a different stage of coming-out. Some are new to it and are dealing with friends and family that don't know they are lesbians. Others have been involved with women for a long time but want to get a sense of what's out there." She believes the diversity of the group adds to its cohesiveness.

"Many times when people are coming-out they go to the bars not knowing what else is available, but that's not a good way to deal

with issues," Bernstein says. "The fact that the group meets on an ongoing basis, and is free of charge fills a need."

VanHaight and Bernstein's groups meet at the same time in different rooms at the Center, and when the hour and a half sessions conclude, everyone gets together for a mixed social time. "We've talked about combining the two groups once in a while," says VanHaight. "Maybe the discussion would focus on lesbian and gay relationships. Or we might invite a guest speaker."

Lesbians and gay men interested in signing up for a coming-out group may phone the Center at 617/247-2927. The women's group is open to new members; men may sign up for the group starting in April.

#### FCHC

Once a year, Fenway Community Health

Center in Boston offers a more structured coming-out group. The present group, which began in January, is winding to a close. However, Fenway will probably offer another group starting in January, 1992.

"It is offered as a mixed group for men and women," said Ann Armour, mental health and addictions triage worker at Fenway. "This year, for some reason, it was all men, although a major effort was made to reach groups in the women's community."

Armour said two co-leaders facilitate the therapy group, which meets weekly for hour-and-a-half sessions. A fee is charged on a sliding scale from \$15-30. Health insurance is accepted.

As with all of Fenway Community Health services, a person must go through an evaluation and screening process before being referred to an appropriate facility, or in this case, the therapy group. For information call Fenway Community Health Center at 617/267-0900.

#### Women's Center

Lesbians interested in non-structured women-only groups might try the Women's Center in Cambridge. The Center holds a coming-out meeting once a month that is free and open to all lesbians. For information call the Women's Center at (617) 354-8807.

#### Private groups

In Cambridge, therapists Jean Chapin Smith and Kevin Cranston facilitate mixed groups three times during the year. A pamphlet describes them as "group(s) for lesbians and gay men who are considering coming-out to parents, colleagues, self," and for those "feeling stuck in the ongoing process of coming-out." Participants sign up for a 14-week commitment.

"Usually we have about eight people in a group," said Chapin Smith. "Age range varies, but might be from 21 to early fifties. A rich variation in age and sex helps people see things over the generations."

Chapin Smith is not a lesbian, but does have gay and straight children. She said that when she started a coming-out group over two years ago she was concerned that gay men and lesbians would not accept her. The response to her groups indicates otherwise.

"We offer tools such as identifying and

Continued on page 16

24 page  
New Festival  
Film Tour Catalog  
available at the  
Brattle Theatre

### FILM SCHEDULE

Fri 4/5				7:00 Comrades In Arms & Flames Of Passion	8:30 Because The Dawn & Nocturne	10:20 Pink Narcissus
Sat 4/6	2:00 Desire	3:50 November Moon	5:55 Friends Forever	7:50 Another Way		10:00 Beyond Gravity & Night Out
Sun 4/7	2:00 Maedchen In Uniform	3:50 Looking For Longston & Trojans	5:25 Coming Out	7:35 In & Out Of Love Series: 4 Films		9:30 Ooys Of Greek Gods
Mon 4/8			6:00 Comrades In Arms & Flames Of Passion	7:20 She Must Be Seeing Things		9:15 Tongues Untied & Flesh & Paper
Tues 4/9				6:00 Common Threads	7:35 November Moon	9:40 Desire
Wed 4/10				6:00 Another Way	8:05 The Films of Su Friedrich: 3 Films	9:55 Friends Forever
Thurs 4/11				6:00 Looking For Longston & Trojans	7:35 Because The Dawn & Nocturne	9:20 Porting Glances
Fri 4/12				6:00 Desert Hearts	7:55 Beyond Gravity & Night Out	9:50 Virgin Machine
Sat 4/13	2:00 Days Of Greek Gods	3:35 Sisters In Jazz: 3 Films	5:15 Porting Glances	7:00 Friends Forever	8:50 Because The Dawn & Nocturne	10:45 Pink Narcissus
Sun 4/14	2:00 Tongues Untied & Flesh & Paper	3:45 Desire	5:35 In & Out Of Love Series: 4 Films	7:30 Coming Out		9:40 Longtime Companion

Our Special Thanks to Goy Community News for their generosity and technical assistance.



APRIL 5-14

### The Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street, Cambridge  
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(617) 868-3416

Coming Out



Looking For Longston

#### Opening Night Benefit, Friday, April 5, 1991

Come celebrate our Passion and our Power with The Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, the Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders and The New Festival.

5PM to 7PM Cocktail Reception & Hors D'Oeuvres followed by a screening of your choice. Call 617-262-1565 for details!

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